MARCH 1977 FIFTY CENTS

THE NORFOLK ISLAND NEWS

INCLUDING THE ISLAND HANDBOOK
16-PAGE LIFTOUT OF FACTS • MAP
• CALENDAR - LOCAL EVENTS EVERY DAY

WHILE THINKING OVER THE SUBJECT OF OUR CONVERSATION OF FRIDAY LAST I HAVE BEEN LED TO THE BELIEF THAT I DID NOT MAKE MY VIEWS WITH RELATION TO THE PITCAIRN ISLANDERS SO CLEAR AS I MIGHT HAVE DONE. I HAVE THOUGHT IT BETTER THEREFORE TO STATE THEM IN WRITING IN ORDER THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE LED ASTRAY WITH REGARD TO THEM BY A MISCONCEPTION OF EXPRESSION USED BY ME IN CONVERSATION. THE WISHES OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVNT. AS COMMUNICATED TO ME NOT ONLY IN DESPATCHES FROM THE SEC. OF STATE BUT ALSO BY A VERBAL MESSAGE FROM MR. LABOUCHERE, ARE THAT THESE ISLANDERS SHOULD BE LEFT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE TO THEMSELVES, THAT NO INTERFERENCE SHOULD TAKE PLACE WITH THE RULES UNDER WHICH THEY HAVE HITHERTO BEEN LIVING, THAT IN POINT OF FACT THEY SHOULD BE ENABLED TO CARRY OUT AT NORFOLK ISLAND THE SAME PRIMITIVE OR PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM WHICH HAS PRODUCED SUCH GOOD EFFECTS UPON THEIR MORAL CONDUCT AT PITCAIRN ISLAND.

THESE VIEWS HAVE BEEN SO FAR CARRIED OUT BY THE REMOVAL OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, MAGISTRATES, CHAPLAIN, ETC., FROM PITCAIRN ISLAND TO THEIR NEW RESIDENCE, WHERE EACH WILL RESUME HIS USUAL PLACE AND BE INVESTED WITH THE SAME AUTHORITY AS BEFORE.

THE SEC. OF STATE HOWEVER, HAVING BEFORE HIM THE POSSIBILITY THAT A CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES AS WELL AS POSITION MIGHT CALL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF SOME PERSON UNCONNECTED WITH THE PRESENT INHABITANTS TO ACT AS A MAGISTRATE, HAS GIVEN ME AN AUTHORITY TO NOMINATE SUCH AN OFFICER, SHOULD I BE FULLY CONVINCED OF THE NECESSITY OF SO DOING. I SHOULD NOT HOWEVER THINK OF MAKING SUCH AN APPOINTMENT WITHOUT FIRST VISITING THE ISLAND AND MAKING MYSELF THOROUGHLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE FEELINGS AND WISHES, AS WELL AS THE WANTS OF THE PEOPLE.

--- GOVERNOR SIR WILLIAM DENISON, IN A LETTER TO THE BISHOP OF NEW ZEALAND, 16 JUNE 1856

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CHRISTIAN + TROPIQUE + HILLCREST + MOKUTU + THE CREST + PANORAMA + ISLANDER + COLONY + CHANNERS

Norfolk Diary

FEBRUARY 9TH, 1977 may just go down in Norfolk Island history as one of the most memorable dates since the Pitcairn settlers moved here in 1856.

On the other hand, maybe it will soon be forgotten.

It all depends on whether the Committee of 24 on Decolonisation of the United Nations decides to consider the appeal made to it that day by the eight elected representatives of the Island. Stepping outside their official role as a Council and acting as a group of individuals, they wrote to Ambassador Salim Salim, head of the Committee, asking that Norfolk be protected from being politically swallowed up by Australia without the voters of Norfolk having any say in the change.

The Councillors, with a very strong feeling of assurance that they were reflecting the wishes of the great majority of residents, had been saying for months that they believed a referendum on the change was essential.

The Australian Government had clearly said it had no intention of allowing a referendum, and had clearly implied that the Nimmo Report recommendations (which mean Norfolk's being integrated) were going to be put into effect, regardless of what people on Norfolk might want.

That implication can be seen in many Government statements. One of the clearest was the reply Council received when it asked that an economist be assigned to see how much the Nimmo Report would damage the Island's only industry, tourism. No, said the Government, that would just delay things -- but we might be able to send tax and social welfare experts over, to let you know how the tax and benefits systems are going to affect you.

They didn't say "are going to affect you," of course - that would seem rude. But anyone who questions what they really meant has got to be pretty naive.

Council made one last try, wiring the Minister that a referendum (which he can grant single-handed) was essential in Council's view, and that Council was considering a proposal to turn to the United Nations if it had to.

The cable languished in Canberra for a week, while the Minister was away electioneering. Apparently the Department didn't feel it was important. The Administrator had meanwhile sent a report giving his own views on the situation, and his analysis must have rung no alarm bells.

It took true courage, on an Island that is so traditionally respecting of authority, for the eight men to do what they did. Their object is very simple: to do anything lawful they have to do, in order to assure that any major development in Norfolk Island's governmental structure is made only with the consent of a majority of the people who live and vote on the Island. If they are successful in protecting that right, they will go down in Norfolk history as men who were real leaders in a time of crisis.

Don't believe everything you hear...

WILL THE APPEAL succeed? At this writing no one knows, although there are some strange accounts of the situation being aired, and this may be a good time for remembering the old adage to believe none of what you hear, and only half of what you read.

One of the strangest accounts originated with the Australian Broadcasting Commission's reporter in New York on February 23rd. It was heard here the next day, on the ABC's "International Report".

Reporter Terry Hughes said the rules governing U. N. involvement in territories are complicated, but centre on whether the territory is geographically and ethnically distinct from the country in charge of the territory.

"Interpreting those rules," Mr. Hughes reported, "officials here say that their decision concerning Norfolk Island still stands. The U. N. stated flatly in 1974, and I quote, 'If Norfolk Island were placed on the United Nations list of territories then every small uninhabited island in the world would also have to be placed on that list.' End of quote."

If we may interrupt Mr. Hughes for a moment at that point, it is worth noting a few teensie-weensie errors in what he said.

In the first place, the word "uninhabited" should be "inhabited". In the second place, the year was 1975, not 1974. In the third place, the United Nations has never made any decision about Norfolk Island; the "officials here", whom Mr. Hughes mentions, are obviously not United Nations officials at all, but are obviously Australian aides posted to the U.N. There was a decision - by Australia - that Norfolk should not be on the U.N. list.

Oh, yes - one more: the "flat statement" wasn't a U.N. statement at all; it was part of a report prepared by the standing committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs of the Australian Senate.

Let's return to Mr. Hughes: "The Norfolk Islanders claim that the U.N. statement" (that's the Australian Senate Commitee statement) "was not founded on correct information - they had the population wrong; as well as many political points, such as who originally settled the Island, and why."

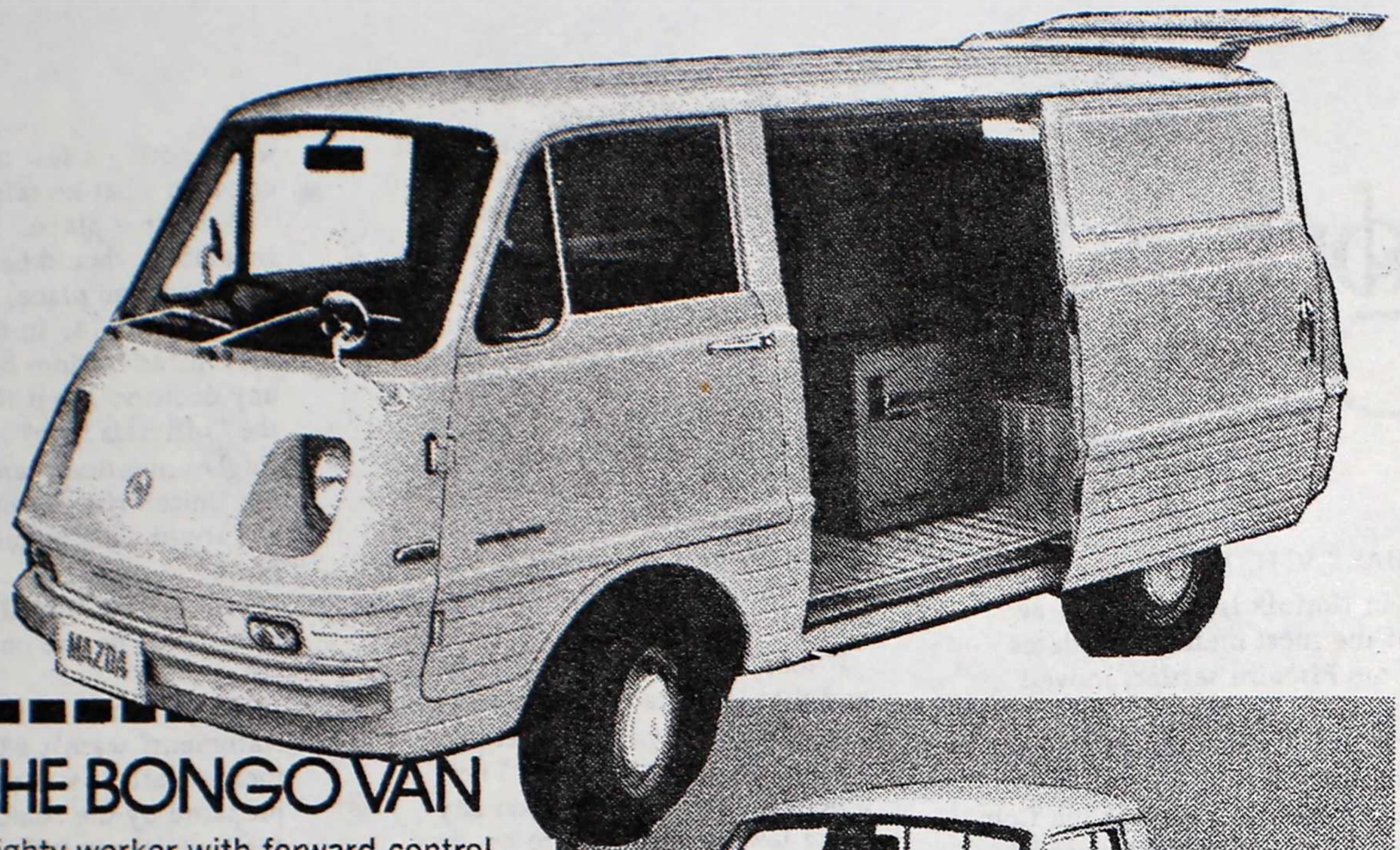
Norfolk's Councillors didn't say there was any confusion about who had settled Norfolk. They did mention some errors that Mr. Hughes perhaps didn't think worth reporting.

The Senate Committee report, for example, states that "The Norfolk Island Council is responsible in the normal way for municipal affairs." How could they be so completely mistaken? Norfolk Council has no executive authority at all, of any kind.

Again, the Senate Committee report states that "there is complete freedom of access between the mainland and Norfolk Island." How could they be so mistaken? Even the members of that Senate Committee can't stay on Norfolk for longer than 30 days, without getting special permission from David Buffett, because Norfolk has its own separate Immigration Ordinance. Australian immigration laws don't apply here.

Please stop these continual communications

SINCE APPEALING to the U.N., the Councillors have done their best to re-awaken some interest on the Minister's part in considering the Island's real problems, and clearing up some of the glaring



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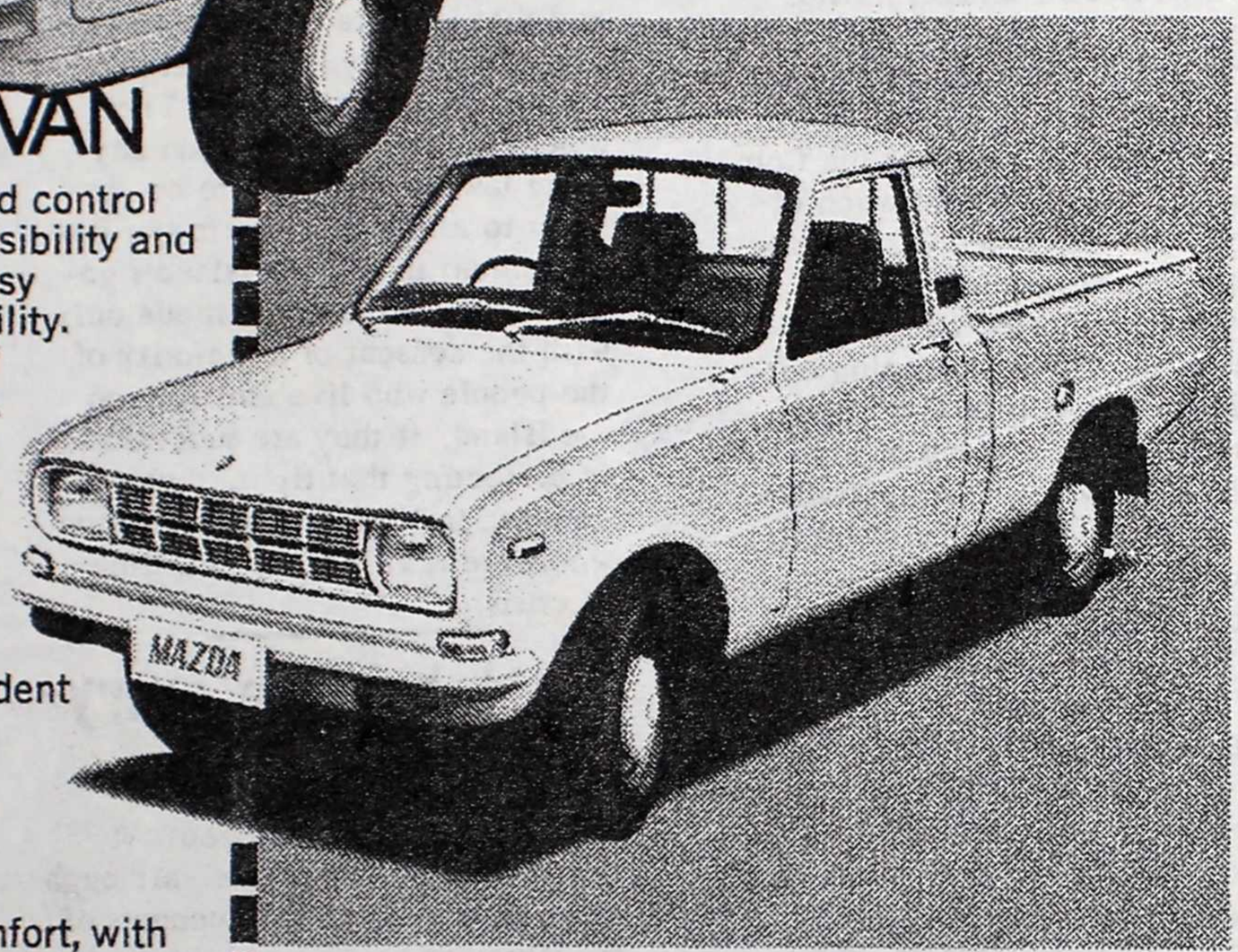

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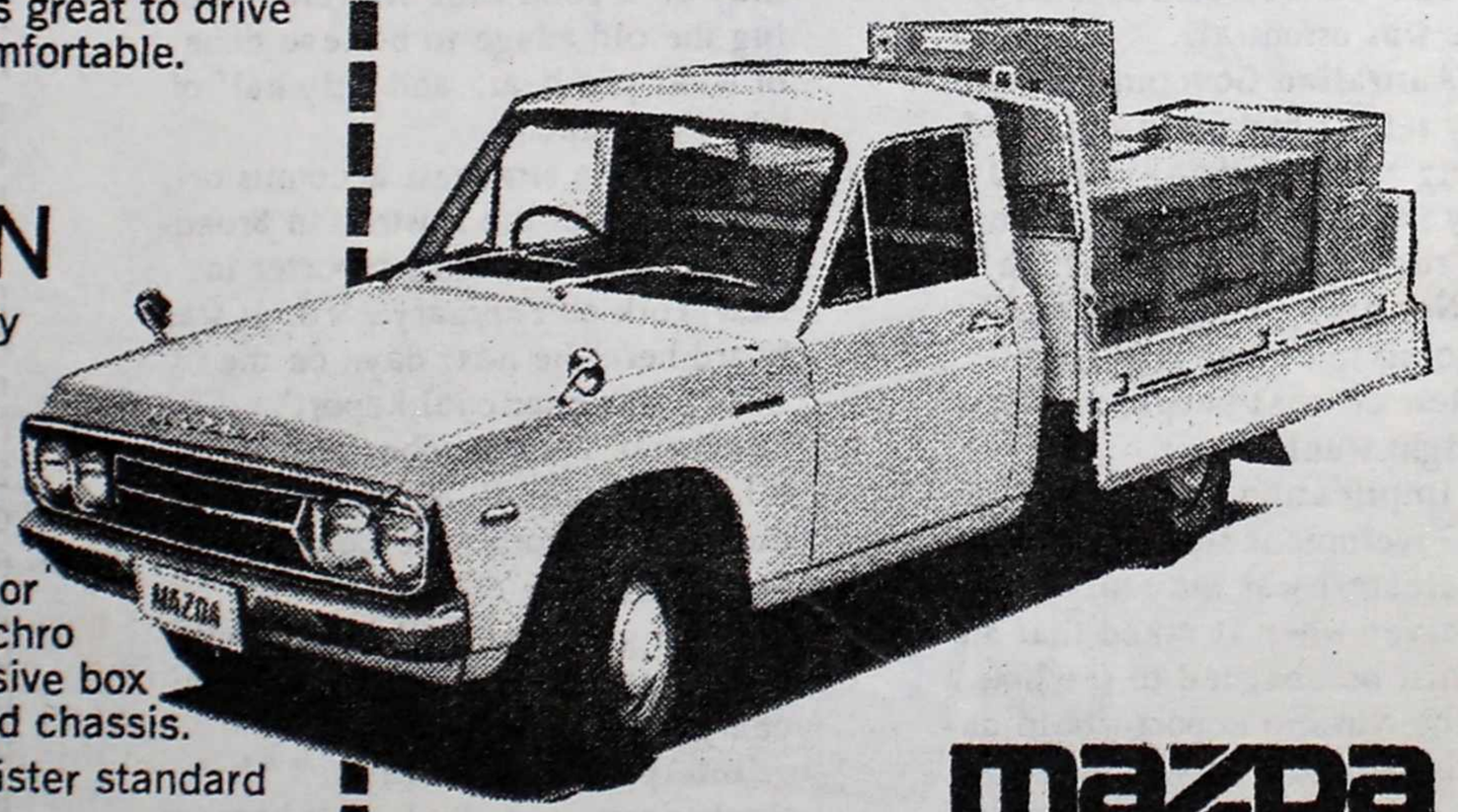

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misunderstandings that obviously exist.

A correspondence-by-cable tells the unhappy story, and, at our press-time, the so-far unhappy ending. Here's how it went:

From President of Committees Bill Blucher to the Minister responsible for Norfolk Island, Sen. R. G. Withers, on February 14th:

"Norfolk Island Councillors wish to give every cooperation in immediately finding mutually satisfactory basis for resolving present situation taking into account all reasonable interests of Australia and of Norfolk Island residents.

"We convinced present impasse is result of nothing more than poor communications and misunderstandings and believe face to face discussion with you can quickly set these right.

"Delegation of three Councillors (plus our Administrator if you agree) now at standby for travel to Canberra soon as possible providing Government can meet expenses.

"Please cable urgent reply. We find any suggestion of confrontation repugnant and feel certain that straightforward talks can do nothing but good.

"Meanwhile we distressed by reported press comments that Norfolk problem is merely effort by a few to preserve tax haven. Tax haven was closed off as of 1972 as verified by Nimmo page 242 lines 25 and 26.

"We as strongly opposed to tax evasion as you but this situation no longer prevails on Norfolk and would be non-existent as grounds for integrating Norfolk now."

ON 17TH FEBRUARY Sen. Withers cabled a reply:

"I have considered the message passed to me by His Honour the Administrator on February 14 conveying your suggestion that a delegation of three Councillors travel to Canberra with the Government meeting expenses. I have today asked His Honour the Administrator to convey a message to Council on the matters involved.

"I do not consider that communications between us are at fault or that any misunderstandings have arisen.

"As I indicated in my message to Council, I propose to come to Norfolk Island for discussions there as soon as I am in a position to do so. Councillors therefore will have an opportunity to put their views to me at that time."

ON FEBRUARY 22ND Cr. Blucher cabled Sen. Withers again:

"Major misunderstandings do exist and we feel strongly that face to face talks should not be left until some unspecified future time. Expenses of delegation can be raised by public subscription here.

Please advise when Parliamentary duties could allow you to see delegation for at least one meeting.

"Delays clearly will increase possibility of confrontation and further misunderstandings between ourselves (Norfolk Island and Australia) on United Nations principles.

"We are sure you agree it is preferable that we try to resolve problems ourselves.

"Major misunderstandings include these three:

"Firstly, Councillors have taken the extreme step of appealing to United Nations to protect Norfolk from integration into the Commonwealth without consent of residents. The fact that Norfolk would appeal to international body for protection from its own parent country is evidence of deep and regrettable misunderstandings that should be discussed frankly with least possible delay.

"Secondly, Council has stated that Royal Commission rcommendations mean grave danger of damage to Island way of life. You have said you do not agree but we live here and are sure you misunderstand.

"Thirdly, seven of Australia's nine reasons for withholding self-determination principles from Norforlk as stated in Senate Committee report are inaccurate and reveal basic misunderstandings of Norfolk history, people and government. One of the most remarkable is that Norfolk is ethnically and culturally the same as Australia. This error has been reiterated by Australian sources at United Nations. Unless Australia's major population group has magically become Anglo-Polynesian Pitcairners proud of their heritage, this is a misunderstanding that requires immediate clearing up.

"According press statements you also say Norfolk people were never "independent" in character and that Norfolk problems will be settled by end of June. These also give rise to further misunderstandings and are matters for clarification immediately. Lack of communication to Administrator and Council of the significance of this date has not been transmitted so far.

"Councillors respectfully request you give the foregoing your most urgent consideration and reply."

SENATOR WITHERS replied the next day:

"I have nothing to add at this stage to my previous messages and would be grateful if these continual communications could cease in order to allow me to do as I have indicated."

Seek and ye shall find

TO END THIS SUNNY, light-hearted edition of Norfolk Diary, a musing about the Royal Commission Report.

The Commission is said to have cost over $1 million. It included what the report implies were intensive searches of archives in Sydney, Auckland, London and Norfolk Island, looking for documents of any kind that might support the idea of Pitcairn rights. The search found nothing. How is it that one month of searching by friends of The News has already begun turning up very compelling evidence indeed - like the front cover extract from the Governor-to-be?

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COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT

FOR NORFOLK-WATCHERS WHO LIKE KNOWING WHAT COUNCILLORS REALLY SAID, AND WHERE THEY STAND

THE FEBRUARY 9TH Council meeting was historic.

Council presented its broad ideas about how Norfolk should be governed in the future -- the result of almost continual meetings since before Christmas.

Council also decided that Canberra's response to the Council's deep concern about damage that would result from the Nimmo Report recommendations was just not reassuring enough -- and voted to appeal to the United Nations for protection.

The proceedings were far too long for verbatim coverage in our Transcript this issue. We'll precis the first part, and quote from the U.N. decision.

* * * * * * *

COUNCIL'S VIEWS on the Island's future government were based on the sequence of points recommended by Royal Commissioner Sir John Nimmo. In introducing them, however, President of Committees Bill Blucher said Council did not believe the Nimmo Report was a sound document, and that its importance was that it had brought impetus to the Island for change and further development. He added that Council's views were meant to be "in the broad" and that room had been left for negotiation in the future.

Statistically, it might seem that the Councillors accepted quite a lot of the Nimmo recommendations: they agreed, at least in general, with 58 out of 72.

But many of those 58 were in the category of recommendation no. 6: "That voting be compulsory and by secret ballot" -- or like no. 58: "That the Assembly invite newsagents on the Island to enter into an arrangement which will ensure the regular supply of mainland papers to the public."

On the meaningful issues, Council has views very different from the Royal Commissioner. They do not believe Island electors should be included in the Canberra electorate, or that there should be a permanent and inflexible ceiling of 20,000 tourists a year, or that all Australian laws should automatically apply on Norfolk, or that the same level of income and other taxes as apply in Canberra should be introduced here, or that workers compensation or ILO regulations are needed, or that a shipping monopoly between the Island and Australia should be set up by Canberra.

Council thinks Canberra should have authority over air transport, and should have the same degree of land control it has now.

But it believes Norfolk should be making its own decisions on what taxes are necessary and what social benefits are needed, on education (with continued NSW help), on the hospital, on ocean shipping, on laws that apply locally, on zoning, on law enforcement, on immigration controls (which Council is still considering, in draft Ordinance form) and on tourism policies in general.

Cr. Blucher required about an hour to read Council's views on all these matters. In general they were thoughtful and logical, although leaving room for future reconsideration of some points. The views are an extremely important milestone in Council's development, and it is safe to say that every member is better informed for having gone through the exhausting effort.

The Administrator, Mr. O'Leary, received Council's great thanks for the constructive role he played in chairing the meetings and getting the views onto paper. All nine of the Councillors, Administrator included, deserve the community's thanks for a valuable piece of work. So do their wives; home life was badly torn up for well over two months.

Anyone concerned with the Island's governmental future should save the February 12th and 19th issues of The Norfolk Islander, in which the Council's views appeared in full -- another true community service.

It remains to be seen what the views themselves will actually be used for. Canberra's stone-wall attitudes toward the Nimmo Report up to now give rise to a fear that Council's views may be used merely as a document that proves Canberra "took the Island's views into account" before implementing the Nimmo Report. The views ought, in the eyes of Council and probably of most electors, to become a discussion document from which Canberra, working with Council, can hammer out a sensible governmental future for Norfolk.

* * * * * * * * * * *

A REFERENDUM on Norfolk's future form of government has been resisted starting with the Nimmo Report itself. Each time Council tried to secure a referendum, the answer was negative.

In a closed session on February 2nd, having completed its work on its views of the Nimmo proposals, made one last try to get Minister Withers to grant a referendum.

The question they wanted put to the public was this:

"Sir John Nimmo has recommended that Norfolk Island residents should pay full Australian income tax, death duties and other imposts except sales tax;
should receive full Australian social service, pension and health benefits;
should be subject to all Commonwealth laws except those stated not to apply to Norfolk Island; and
should vote in the electorate of Canberra.

"Are you in favour of these proposals?"

Council linked the four proposals together because they form a unit: you can't have one without the others following on.

They cabled Sen. Withers that they believed none of the four key Nimmo recommendations should be made into law without a referendum, and that "Any other course would deny democracy". The cable said that the cost and time required for a referendum were "insignificant compared to the importance of the question to the Island", and that if a referendum were called, it would "prevent the need arising for the Council to consider a proposal to call upon the United Nations for assistance in holding a referendum".

The Minister was away from Canberra when the cable arrived there, and apparently no one thought it was of enough importance to call to his attention.

Council had asked for a reply in time for the February 9th monthly meeting, but that morning no answer had been received.

Cr. Blucher asked the Administrator in mid-morning if he could possibly get Sen. Withers on the telephone, and the Administrator did

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 31)

THE CANBERRA TIMES

The mouse that roared a request to the UN

From a Special Correspondent on Norfolk Island

This is the first of two articles on Norfolk Island. The second will be published tomorrow.

AUSTRALIA'S own 'Mouse that Roared' — roared by writing to the United Nations for help in its battle with the Australian Government — is a most improbable setting for such dramatic action.

Only five miles by three, Norfolk Island is hilly, rural, and sleepy. Nothing much happens from day to day. The tourists wander the island on foot or in a variety of hire vehicles, take their photographs, chat with the locals, and try to avoid the multitudes of wandering cows which at all times have right of way.

The greatest excitement seems to be when a visitor, such as this correspondent, falls off a motor cycle and suffers what the locals have named Honda-itis.

Even the news that Norfolk Island Council has written to the United Nations Committee of Twenty-Four on Decolonisation has generally been greeted with a placid calm. "They won't even get a reply", shrugged one local, suggesting that for him that was the end of the matter.

But if passions are not running high and the peasants have not yet taken to the streets, there can be no doubting the fundamental seriousness with which the islanders, and in particular their taxes except sales tax.

The third point, on the basis of "no taxation without representation", is that islanders should have a vote, and Mr Justice Nimmo's suggestion is that they should be incorporated into the electorate of Canberra.

The final point — completing the integration of the island with mainland Australia — is that all laws of the Commonwealth should apply to Norfolk Island except those that expressly

Norfolk plea to UN over future

NORFOLK ISLAND, Wednesday. — The eight elected members of the Norfolk Island Council called on the United Nations today to protect the island from being politically incorporated into Australia without the consent of its residents.

In a formal appeal to the chairman [illegible] committee of 24 [illegible] clear answers as to why the UN principle did not apply, but had now found reasons set out in a 1975 report by the Senate Standing Committee on Defence and Foreign Affairs. However, most of these were not valid

The Senate report cited nine factors which it said "militate against even the possibility of UN involvement in Norfolk Island" Aust[illegible]

A cutting from last Thursday's edition of The Canberra Times.

Government to step in and sort it out.

And since it offends legal and bureaucratic tidiness to have a part of Australia living under different tax and welfare laws from the rest, the obvious solution seems to be to make Norfolk Island just another part of the Commonwealth.

That the islanders are divided on the issue is generally acknowledged, but the locals see nothing wrong with that. The 1856: retired English people on meagre British pensions; retired Australians; people who came here to pioneer the tourist industry when air travel made it a viable proposition (and who often married locals); and people who have gained permission to settle on the island to operate the shops and hotels.

No one will assert that any one of these groups is opposed to the others or united within itself; but the inevitable variety of interests adds to the degree of dissension to be found in any small community.

Mr Snell and his fellow-councillors, however, see this not as a reason for government to act as Big Brother, but as all the more reason for the holding of a referendum. Public meetings, says Mr Snell, get nowhere. Many of the people are too shy to speak their mind, while others use the opportunity to raise old feuds.

A referendum might settle the issue — and this is the sole basis for the council's approach to the United Nations — but it is difficult to guess what degree of consensus might emerge. Perhaps the saving grace lies in the obvious and sincere respect that the newer settlers have for what they see as the historic rights of the Pitcairn descendants to "their" island.

Travelodge literature often seems to represent the Pitcairners as quaint yokels, speaking a curious dialect. In fact, many of the island's most

surprising that government from distant Canberra has sometimes been seen as representing Australia "in the role of an oppressor".

This tenderness towards the original islanders causes some hesitation among the strongest opponents of the Nimmo proposals, for those with the greatest need for the social-welfare services that the island now lacks are among this group.

At present the only age pension available is $15 a week payable by the Administration on the recommendation of the council. The high cost of local medical and hospital care can be partly covered by health insurance, but this does not attract the Commonwealth benefit. There are no benefits for deserted wives, no child endowment, no unemployment benefits.

Not surprisingly, some of the islanders who have seen these benefits in action in Australia or tax-free. The system works so well that Mr McMullen has not had to advertise for workers for a long time: the message spreads by word of mouth and young people write asking for a job.

But if income tax were introduced, Mr McMullen calculates that the wages bill of the South Pacific Hotel alone would increase by $52,000 a year, and in an enterprise which shows only a modest profit, as most Norfolk hotels do, the added expense could only be reflected in higher tariffs. The effect throughout the island could be catastrophic.

Opponents of the Nimmo proposals claim that the people who are prepared to pay tax not only fail to understand the effects this would have on Norfolk's economy, but don't really understand the personal impact either.

Many of them have never lived under a tax system such as Australia has. "They grumble now about the $15-a-year

NORFOLK ISLAND

In defence of an 'infinitely precious' way of life

From a Special Correspondent on Norfolk Island

This is the second of two articles on Norfolk Island. The first, published yesterday, examined the situation which led the Norfolk Island Council to send a letter to the UN appealing for support against being incorporated into Australia without prior reference to the islanders by way of referendum. It was pointed out that perhaps the major changes would be the introduction of welfare services — and taxation.

WELFARE services are not the only thing that need upgrading, but they are the most emotional issue.

Some of the gloomier locals say that once unemployment benefits arrive the islanders will all go on the dole; but all admit that there are areas of real need, and it seems the only way to cover them, short of a full acceptance of the Nimmo Report, is by a greater degree of self-help.

Self-sufficiency and local pride are the key to the islanders' response to Mr Justice Nimmo. They reject the notion that economic and legal arguments are what it is all about. There is, they say, a way of life established on Norfolk Island that is infinitely precious and that would be seriously disturbed if the changes proposed were to be implemented.

Mr McMullen, the manager of one of the hotels, describes Norfolk Island in Alvin Tofler's phrase as "an enclave of the past" and believes that it should be preserved for the sake of a world which such enclaves are too rapidly disappearing.

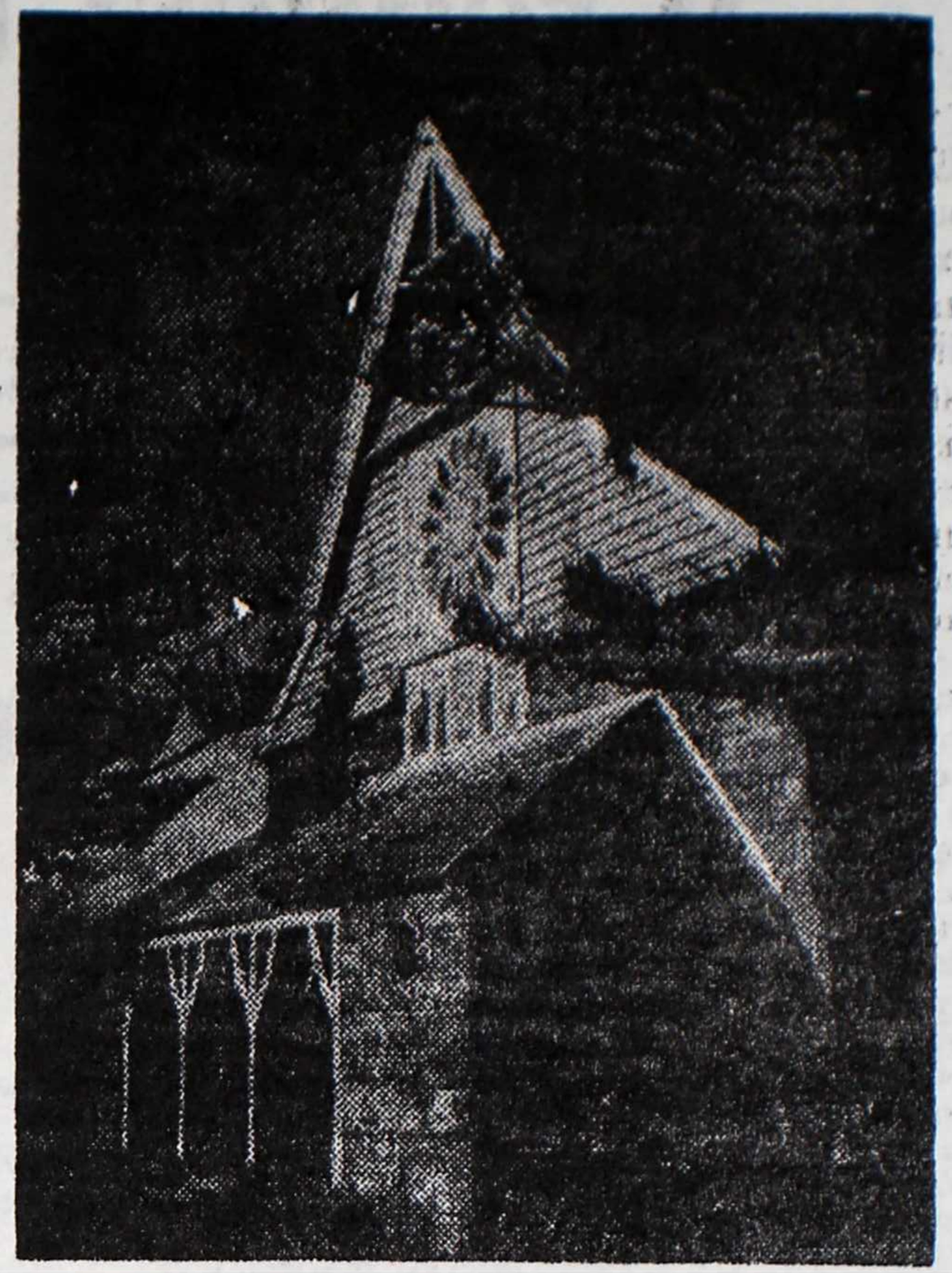
His view is shared by local businessman Mr Bill Grey, who speaks of "the delicate local ecology — both human and natural". Outsiders, the islanders believe, can rarely appreciate this quality, though the sensitive visitor instantly recognises that something different which makes up much of Norfolk's appeal.

It is, however, the "delicate ecology" that prevents Norfolk from adopting the course of increasing its population to overcome its financial problems.

In normal times (there is a drought at present) there is just sufficient water to sustain the island without the need for remain as far as possible what they are, for once they become, as a local described it, just another Australian country town, the magic of Norfolk will be lost.

This real desire to please probably explains why the islanders were so hurt by the tone of the Nimmo Report with its peremptory statement that Australia will decide what is best for the island, not the locals. At one point the report tartly comments that Norfolk people need a lesson in elementary

The expenses of the Department of Transport are part of the hidden subsidy of the island. Other departments have similar expenses and these were guessed at by the Department of the Capital Territory when it had control of the island, to produce a notional subsidy by the Commonwealth of $2.5 million annually. These figures proved illusory when the departments concerned were approached directly for confirmation, yet the Nimmo Report accepts them as gospel.



St Barnabas' Chapel on Norfolk Island, built as a memorial to the martyred Bishop of Melanesia, Bishop Patteson. It is framed by Norfolk Island pines, characteristic of the island.

that preserves as much as possible of the status quo. They deny that this is sheer conservatism, though they cannot see the necessity of change for its own sake. What they want is as much

have much to learn, and they would be happy to leave Canberra with a veto over their actions. "But give us the power and five years to show we can use it wisely", says one of them. "Then if we make a mess of it,

16-PAGE LIFT-OUT!

ISLAND HANDBOOK

for MARCH

- what's on
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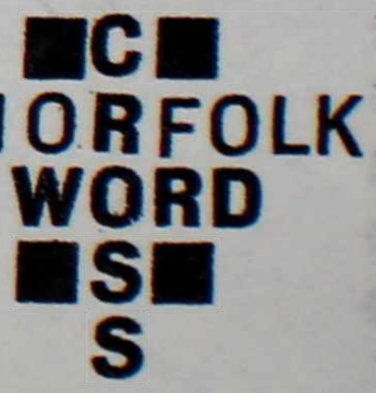
- airline schedules
- radio programmes
- shipping information
- ...and the NORFOLK WORDS



PROUDS
(Norfolk Island) Limited

PRESENT FOR YOUR INSPECTION THE WORLD-FAMOUS LADIES AND GENTS

OMEGA watches
TISSOT watches
LANCO watches

ALL SWISS WATCHES AND FULLY GUARANTEED

PROUDS ALSO PRESENT FULL RANGE OF

Royal Doulton figurines
Lladro and Dresden figurines
Hummel and Royal Copenhagen
The Danish Flora Danica jewellery

ALL PROUDS

DIAMOND · RUBY · SAPPHIRE · EMERALD RINGS

ARE HAND MADE AND WITH EVERY RING
AN AUSTRALIAN VALUATION CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED

PROUDS SPECIALISE IN ALL RING REMAKES

SHOP AT PROUDS

PATON PLACE
may be out of town but for the discriminating buyer it is a "must". You will find interesting goods such as: -
CLOISONNE WARE - hand enamelled, copper based Vases, Jars, Bowls etc. from Peking
SCOTTISH MOHAIR rugs, blankets, capes, stoles, beret-and-scarf sets by Glen Cree
SCOTTISH KNITWEAR, partner packs, skirt packs, sock-and-tie sets by Munrospun
PHILIPPINE SHIRTS for men, women and children
BLOUSES and cotton dresses
WOOD & IVORY carvings and other souvenirs

Continue along Taylor's road toward Kingston, and 150 yards past Queen Elizabeth Avenue you will find us. Directly opposite Nimpex.
Phone 2181

CHURCHES

METHODIST
Sunday school 10am; services at 11am and 7.30pm. Pitcairn praise service last Sunday of month.
Pastor Eric Dronfield.

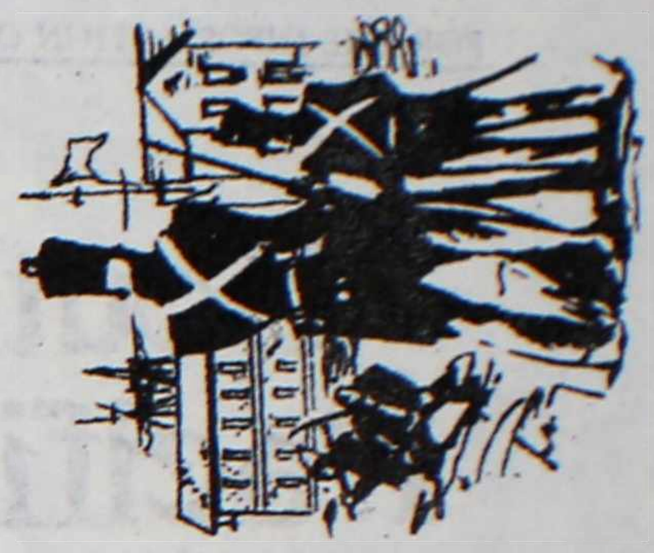
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
All Saints (Kingston) 10.30am Sundays (Communion 1st Sun. in month) St. Barnabas Chapel evening prayer service 7.30pm Sun. Sunday school (Pitcairn Hall) 9.15am. Rev. Colin Berriman.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Sabbath school 9.45am Sat., service at 11.15am, Youth service 2.30pm. Pastor Laurence Gilmore.

CATHOLIC
Masses Sunday at 8am and 9.30am, and daily at 5.30pm. Fr. Des Scanlon. (Father Scanlon is away ill as we go to press, and no services are being held)

HOURS

POST OFFICE: Open from 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and again from 1.15 to 5.00 pm Monday through Friday. Mail closing times vary with aircraft departure times.
TELEPHONES: Local phones operate automatically, 24 hours. Overseas calls can be made at the OTC building in New Cascade Road 10am - 8pm Mon-Fri; 10am-6pm Sat; 10-12 and 3-6pm Sun. Sydney calls $3.75 for 3 minutes; Auckland calls $4.68 for 3 minutes.
TELEGRAMS: Open 9am-6pm Mon-Fri; 9am-2.30pm Sat; 9am-2pm Sun. Charge 5¢ a word to Australia or NZ.
BOND STORE: (at Kingston) 10am-12.00 and 1-4pm Mon-Fri. A bond store branch at the airport is open for plane arrivals and departures seven days a week, for passengers only.
DOCTOR: (at N.I. Hospital). By appointment Mon-Fri. Emergencies, telephone 2091 or 2092.
DENTIST: (also at N.I. Hospital). By appointment, Mon-Fri. Telephone 2091 or 2092.
HOSPITAL VISITING HOURS: 11-12, 2-4 and 7-8.30 daily.
BANKS: 10am-3pm Mon-Thurs, open to 5pm Fri.
LIBRARY: Monday 10-1 and 4-6; Wednesday 10-1; Friday 1-4.
STAMPS: At P.O. or at Island Shop several doors East. For back issues of N.I. stamps, see Amy Bathie at De Chesne's store across from the Milk Bar.
ADMINISTRATION: Offices open 10-12 and 12.45-4.00 Mon-Fri.
SHOPPING HOURS IN BURNT PINE: generally 9am-12.30, and 2pm-5.30.
Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons almost all shops are closed. A fair number are open Sunday mornings, but not all.
AFTER-HOURS SHOPPING: Trading Post 7.30-9pm Mon-Sat and 9am-7pm Sun; Burns Philp (Middlegate store) 8.30am-8.30pm Mon-Sat. 10am-7pm Sun.
TOURIST BUREAU: (Centre of Burnt Pine) 9-12 and 2-4 Mon-Fri but closed Wed afternoon; 9-12 Sat.
EAST-WEST/AIR N.Z.: Burnt Pine office open 9-5 weekdays, 9-12.30 Wed-Sat.
PETROL STATIONS: There are two. Norfolk Island Motors, at the eastern edge of Burnt Pine, is open 8am-6pm every day but Sunday. Central Service Station, at the western edge of Burnt Pine, is open 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 8.30am-1.30pm Sat, 9-12 Sun. Nights and Sunday afternoons you're out of luck.



THE Commandant's Dinner
a great Norfolk Island feature - every Tuesday from 7.30 pm
IN PERSON : GUITARIST/FOLKSINGER DON REYNOLDS SINGS THE SONGS AND CHANTEYS OF OLD NORFOLK
at The Garrison Restaurant - phone 2073

South Pacific

hotel/motel limited

CASUAL GUEST POLICY

VISITORS TO NORFOLK are sometimes uncertain about the casual-guest policies of the Island's leading hotel.

The brief answer is that you are most welcome, regardless of where you may be staying.

Luncheon at the South Pacific is always pleasant. When the weather is fine you may be served at a table beside the swimming pool. If you prefer, you may sit in the glass-walled indoor barbecue room overlooking the pool and a backdrop of Norfolk Pines.

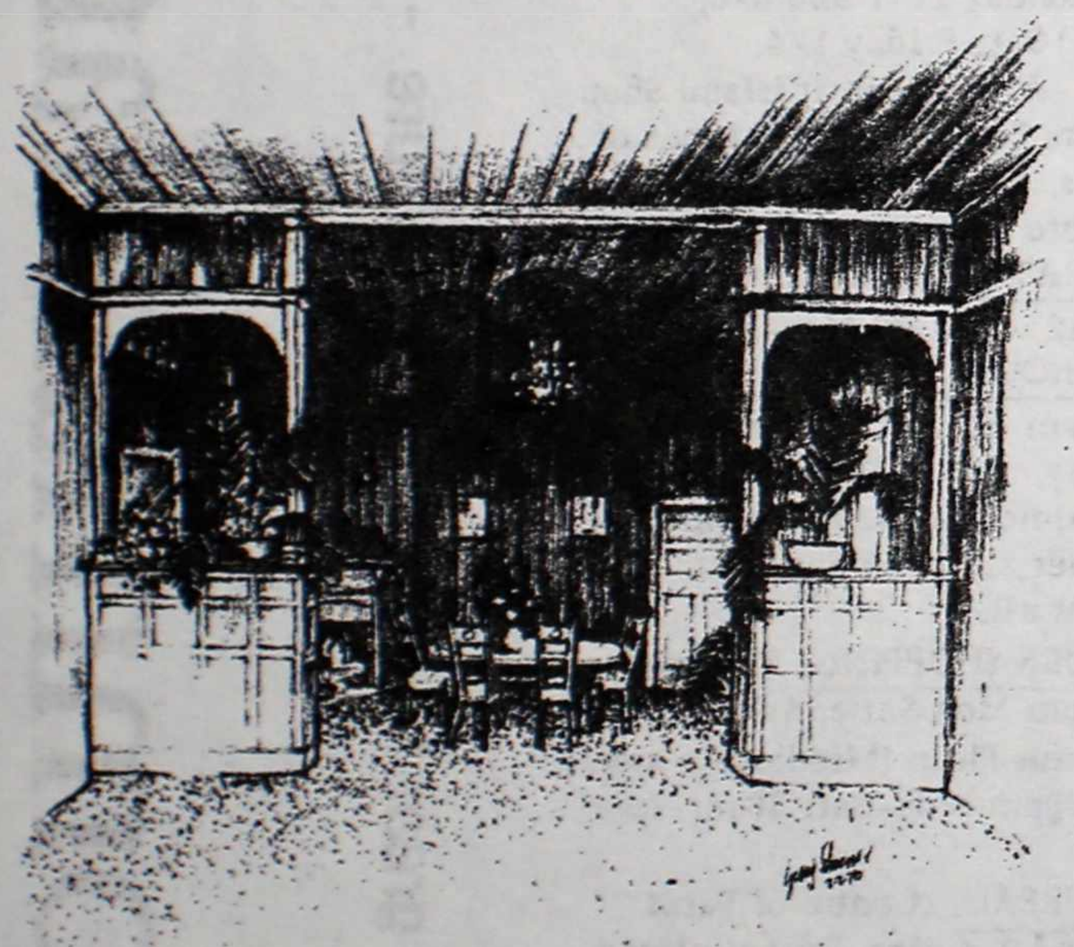
The luncheon menu always includes on inexpensive dish, usually $1 or $1.50, and a beautiful array of hot and cold dishes.

Every night there is special entertainment: MONDAY a smorgasbord and dance to "Lantana"; TUESDAY Housie; WEDNESDAY Singalong with Sharon; THURSDAY South Pacific Island Dinner and dance to "Toofey"; FRIDAY "Disco Night"; SATURDAY a candlelight dinner (with a fine steak for only $5.75; SUNDAY dinner and a film.

Our four chefs have studied on four continents and present the best in imported and local foods, artfully prepared, and served by the attractive girls in the bright cerise-coloured uniforms.

Two requests, please -- make bookings before 4.30 to assure a table, and arrange to arrive before 7.30pm

COME AND ENJOY the South Pacific early in your visit ... you'll want to return.



MARIA BAILEY MARRIED
DICK HEAPS IN 1907
AND ON RETIRING HE BUILT
THE ISLAND HOME OF HILLCREST
FROM TIMBERS BOUGHT FROM
THE MELANESIAN CHAPEL
AND CONVICT-HEWN STONES
FROM THE RUINS AT KINGSTON.

WHAT BETTER PLACE TO RELAX
OVER A PRE-DINNER DRINK
AND ENJOY A MEAL
THAN IN THE OLD DINING ROOM
DISCREETLY LIT BY CHANDELIERS.

Bar opens for pre-dinner drinks at 6 30 p m

A la carte restaurant open from 7 p m

Reservations - ring 2255

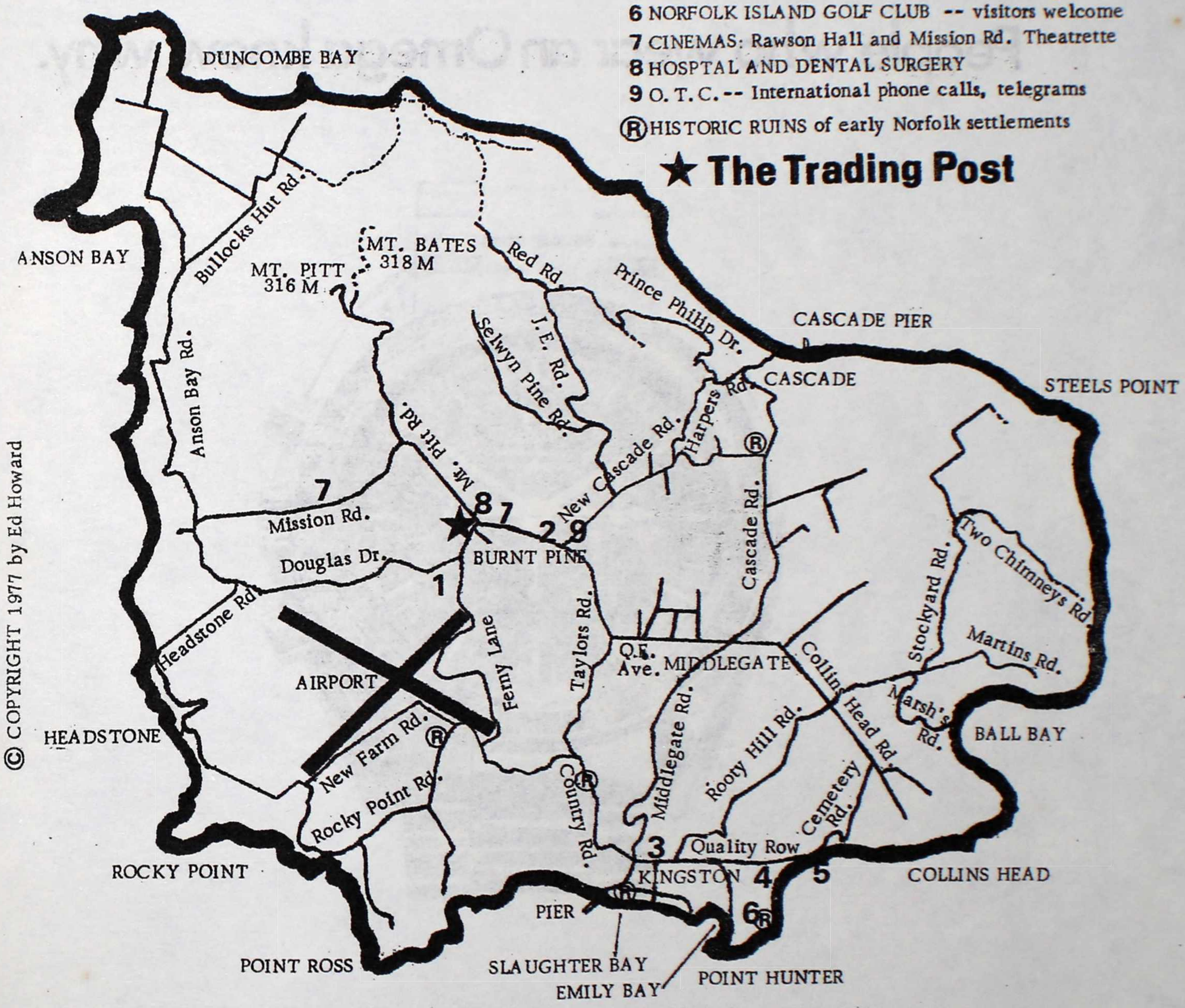
MARIA HEAPS' Restaurant

At the Hillcrest Hotel-Motel: 24 motel units in beautiful gardens overlooking Phillip Island. Brochure available - Box 64

IT'S A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO **NORFOLK ISLAND**

Here are a few of the many things to see on the island. Enjoy them during the day; you can shop late at the Trading Post

1 AIRPORT TERMINAL and Air Cargo office
2 SHOPPING CENTRE, Post Office, Banks, Tourist Board
3 ISLAND ADMINISTRATION ; Bond Store for spirits
4 CEMETERY -- touching inscriptions on old headstones
5 BLOODY BRIDGE, site of one of Norfolk's legends
6 NORFOLK ISLAND GOLF CLUB -- visitors welcome
7 CINEMAS: Rawson Hall and Mission Rd. Theatrette
8 HOSPTAL AND DENTAL SURGERY
9 O. T. C. -- International phone calls, telegrams
® HISTORIC RUINS of early Norfolk settlements



© COPYRIGHT 1977 by Ed Howard

All roads lead to the complete holiday mini-mart —

THE TRADING POST

"THE FIRST SHOP YOU COME TO AFTER LANDING AT THE AIRPORT"

OPEN 7 DAYS — 7.30 am to 9 pm (Except Sundays, when we get lazy and are open only from 9 am to 7 pm -- sorry about that....)

We want to help you make the most of your time on Norfolk so we carry freshly-baked Norfolk Island bread...eggs...teas and coffees...a complete range of tinned foods...frozen meats, vegetables, fish, sweets, pastries and 'heat-n-serve' items ...soft drinks...biscuits, crackers and savouries...ice cream...imported cheeses...lollipops...magazines...batteries... cigarettes...wrapping paper...personal and gift stationery...greeting cars...bug sprays...toothpaste and medicine cabinet items...novelties...mainland newspapers...tinopeners...candles...first aid requirements...olives, pickles, nuts and condiments...picnic supplies...games...artists' requisites...gourmet foods...sliced luncheon meats...fresh fruits and vegies, when Norfolk has them...needles and cotton, and almost anything else you've forgotten, every day of the week, early & late.

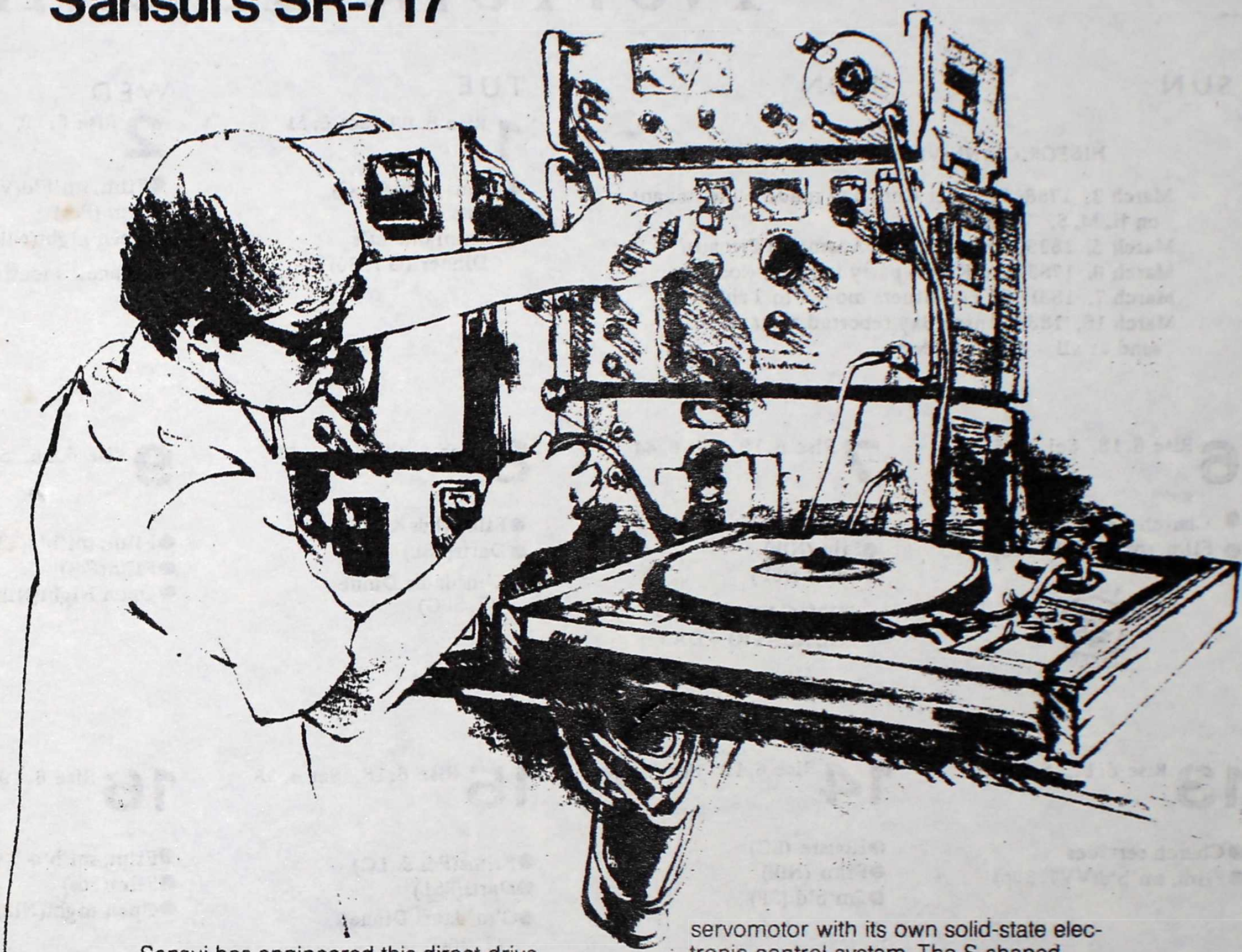
Ω

People who wear an Omega know why.

MILTONS

Norfolk's Complete Duty-Free Centre

One of the finest manual turntables ever made. Sansui's SR-717



Sansui has engineered this direct-drive transcription turntable with particular attention to three key qualities: precision, stability and durability. When it comes to performance, vibrations you can't hear can, indeed, be extremely harmful to faithful reproduction of musical timbre and nuances. The Sansui SR-717 protects you from all motor vibration by driving the high-inertia platter directly with a DC servomotor with its own solid-state electronic control system. The S-shaped tonearm with friction-free Sansui support reduces all tracing distortion. And the no-howl cabinet does away with resonance. Sansui uses superhardened steel alloy and other advanced materials throughout to ensure impressive performance over long use. When you listen to a record on the Sansui SR-717, all you will hear is what is on the record, not under it.

MILTONS

Norfolk's Complete Duty-Free Centre

The Norfolk Island

SUN MON TUE WED

HISTORIC ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

March 2, 1788: Fletcher Christian made a Lieutenant on H.M.S. "Bounty"
March 5, 1829: Death of John Adams on Pitcairn
March 6, 1788: Lt. King's party lands at Norfolk
March 7, 1831: 87 Pitcairners moved to Tahiti
March 16, 1835: Anson Bay reported to have no sand at all - only boulders

1 Rise 6.09, Set 6.51

- Films (Pds & LC)
- Darts (RSL)
- Commandant's Dinner (G7.30)

2 Rise 6.10, Set 6.50

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open night(Nlk)
- Council meeting

6 Rise 6.13, Set 6.45

- Church Services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

full moon

7 Rise 6.13, Set 6.44

- Housie(LC)
- Film(Nlk)
- Sm'b'd(SP)

PUBLIC HOLIDAY--
FOUNDATION DAY

8 Rise 6.14, Set 6.43

- Films(Pds & LC)
- Darts(RSL)
- C'm'dants Dinner (7.30G)

9 Rise 6.15, Set 6.42

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open Night(Nlk)

13 Rise 6.17, Set 6.37

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

14 Rise 6.18, Set 6.36

- Housie (LC)
- Film (Nlk)
- Sm'b'd (SP)

15 Rise 6.18, Set 6.35

- Films(Pds & LC)
- Darts(RSL)
- C'm'dants Dinner (7.30G)

16 Rise 6.19, Set 6.3

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open night(Nlk)

20 Rise 6.21, Set 6.29

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

new moon

21 Rise 6.22, Set 6.28

- Housie(LC)
- Film(Nlk)
- Sm'b'd(SP)

22 Rise 6.22, Set 6.27

- Films(Pds & LC)
- Darts(RSL)
- C'm'dants Dinner (7.30G)

23 Rise 6.23, Set 6.2

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open night(Nlk)

27 Rise 6.26, Set 6.20

- Church services
- Film, sm'b'd(VV7.30p)

28 Rise 6.26, Set 6.19

- Housie(LC)
- Film(Nlk)
- Sm'b'd(SP)

first qtr

29 Rise 6.27, Set 6.18

- Films(Pds & LC)
- Darts(RSL)
- C'm'dants Dinner (7.30G)

30 Rise 6.28, Set 6.1

- Film, sm'b'd(VV)
- Film(Pds)
- Open night(Nlk)

CALENDAR

March 1977

THU
3 Rise 6.11, Set 6.49

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Rotary(Nlk6.30p

FRI
4 Rise 6.12, Set 6.48

- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Open night(Pds)

SAT
5 Rise 6.12, Set 6.47

- SDA service
- Housie(RSL8.00p)

10 Rise 6.15, Set 6.41

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Rotary(Nlk6.30p)

11 Rise 6.16, Set 6.39

- Film (RSL 8p.)
- Open Night (Pds)

12 Rise 6.17, Set 6.38

- SDA service
- Housie(RSL8.00p)

17 Rise 6.19, Set 6.33

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Rotary(Nlk6.30p)

18 Rise 6.20, Set 6.32

- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Open night(Pds)

19 Rise 6.21, Set 6.30

- SDA service
- Housie(RSL8.00p)

24 Rise 6.23, Set 6.24

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Rotary(Nlk6.30p)

25 Rise 6.24, Set 6.23

- Film(RSL8.00p)
- Open night(Pds)

26 Rise 6.25, Set 6.22

- SDA service
- Housie (RSL 8p.)

31 Rise 6.28, Set 6.15

- Housie(LC)
- BBQ(SP)
- Film(8.00RSL)
- Rotary (6.30Nlk)

key

Rise - Sunrise
set - Sunset

LOCATIONS

A	- Administration Building
BP	- Burnt Pine
BC	- Bowling Club
BCP	- BiCentennial Park
BH	- Branka House
C	- Catholic Church
CE	- All Saints
EB	- Emily Bay
G	- Garrison Rest.
GC	- Golf Club
H	- Hospital
KO	- Kingston Oval
Lib	- Library
LC	- Leagues Club
LK	- Lime Kiln BBQ
M	- Museum Building
MC	- Methodist Church
Nlk	- Norfolk Hotel
Pds	- Paradise
PH	- Pitcairners Hall
RH	- Rawson Hall
RSL	- R.S.L. Club
Scl	- N.I. School
SDA	- 7th Day Adv. Hall
SP	- South Pacific
StB	- St. Barnabas Chapel
SW	- Simons Water
VV	- Valley View
YC	- Youth Centre

MORE HISTORIC ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

March 19, 1790: "Sirius" driven onto reef
March 23, 1790: "Sirius", having been stripped, breaks up on the reef.
March 24, 1790: Norfolk Island population 498
March 30, 1914: Order in Council hands Norfolk to the Commonwealth of Australia

jewellery and green jade statuettes direct from Peking

diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires opals and amber from the Baltic Sea

ONLY DIRECT IMPORTS

CASA KUI

Prop. Meta Kienhuize

Taylor's Rd. - The Exclusive Shopping Centre

NOW ON DISPLAY -- AN ELEGANT SELECTION OF GOLD CHARM BRACELETS AND CHARMS

NORFOLK RADIO

World News 7.30, 8, 8.30, 12.30, 1, 2, 2.30, 3, 3.30
Local News 7.40, 8.40, 10, 12, 1.05

MONDAY

9.15 My Music
10.05 Down Memory Lane
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Concert Half-Hour
12.05 Book Reviews
4-7.00 Shut Down
7.00 Light Music/Pop
8.30 Country & Western
9.00 Top of the Pops
10.00 Live Concert
10.30 Close

TUESDAY

9.15 Melody Time
10.05 Music from Shows/ Films
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Notes from the Past
11.30 Band Call
12.05 Ticker, tape&phone
1.15 Methodist Prog.
4-7.00 Shut Down
7.00 Sentimental Journey - Jazz Evening
7.30 Bits & Pieces
8.00 Feature artist- Louis Armstrong
8.30 Bruce's Beat
9.00 Jazz show
10.30 Close

WEDNESDAY

9.15 How the West was sung
10.05 Tale of two cities
10.45 Morning Serial/ Hospital Prog.
12.05 World Affairs
2.00 (First Wed. of Mth. only) N.I. Council Meeting
6.00 Pick of the Week Prog. includes Comedy, Drama, Book Reviews

THURSDAY

9.15 Magazine of Arts
10.05 Toff & Runaway bride
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Requests
12.05 World Affairs Program
1.15 S.D.A. program
4-6.30 Shut Down
6.30 Light Music
7.15 Topics from Holland
7.30 (First Thurs. in Mth. Council Rebroadcast)
8.00 Light Drama
8.20 Music & Interviews
9.30 Close

FRIDAY

9.15 Comedy Show
10.05 The "Who" Story (pop music)
10.45 Morning Serial
11.00 Musical Hits from Germany/Netherlands
12.05 Science//Sports
1.15 Church of Eng. Prog.
4-7.00 Shut Down
7.00 Evening of Fine Music, includes Aust. News in Brief, PM with Hugh Evans
10.15 Close

SATURDAY

10.00 Mainly Pop
11.00 Top of Pops/ Requests
12.00 Local News
1.00 Aust. News in Brief/ Sports Relay
4.00 Young Mood, includes Top Ten, Dedications, News
6.05 Simon & G'f'nkle
6.30 Comedy
7.00 Rowdy's Roundup of Sports Events both Local & Overseas
7.10 Movin' Music
8.00 Drama
9.00 Variety Show
10.00 Close

SUNDAY

3.00 For your entertainment
6.30 "Riley's Roundup" --including local and international sports

FLIGHTS

•

RE-CONFIRM
24 HRS AHEAD

•

CHECK WITH THE AIRLINE FOR DELAYS OR LATE CHANGES:
EAST-WEST 2195
AIR NZ 2195
N.I.A. 2328

SYDNEY

EAST-WEST AIRLINES

Tues. 1/3 to Thurs. 3/3
Sat. 5/3
Arrive 1.25pm, Dep. 2.20pm
(No flight Fri. 4/3)

Sun. 6/3 to Thurs. 31/3
Arrive 2.25pm, Dep. 3.15pm

NO TUESDAY FLIGHTS

AUCKLAND

AIR NEW ZEALAND

DAILY except Tuesday

Arr. 10.30pm, Dep. 12.15pm

BRISBANE

AND LORD HOWE ISLAND

NORFOLK ISLAND AIRLINES

	Dep.	Arr.
Monday	8.30	-
Tuesday	-	-
Wednesday	-	2.30*
Thursday	8.30*	5.15
Friday	8.30	5.15
Saturday	8.30	5.30*
Sunday	8.30*	5.15

*indicates call at Lord Howe Is.

THE SPINNING WHEEL

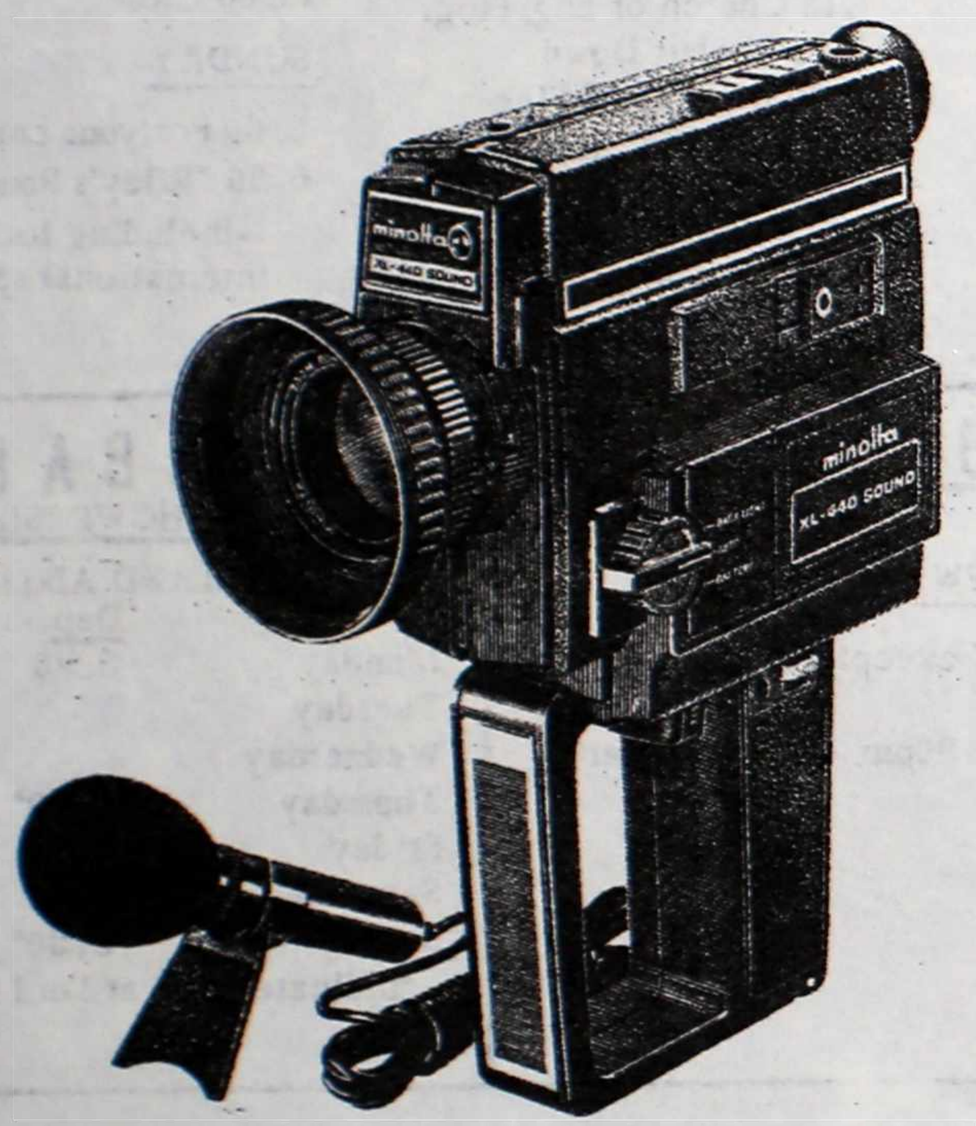
elegant norfolk island handcrafts

NORFOLK ISLAND PAINTINGS...WEAVINGS...LOVELY IMPORTED VENETIAN GLASS...AND OTHER BEAUTIFUL THINGS TO HELP YOU RECALL YOUR ISLAND HOLIDAY WITH ADDED PLEASURE

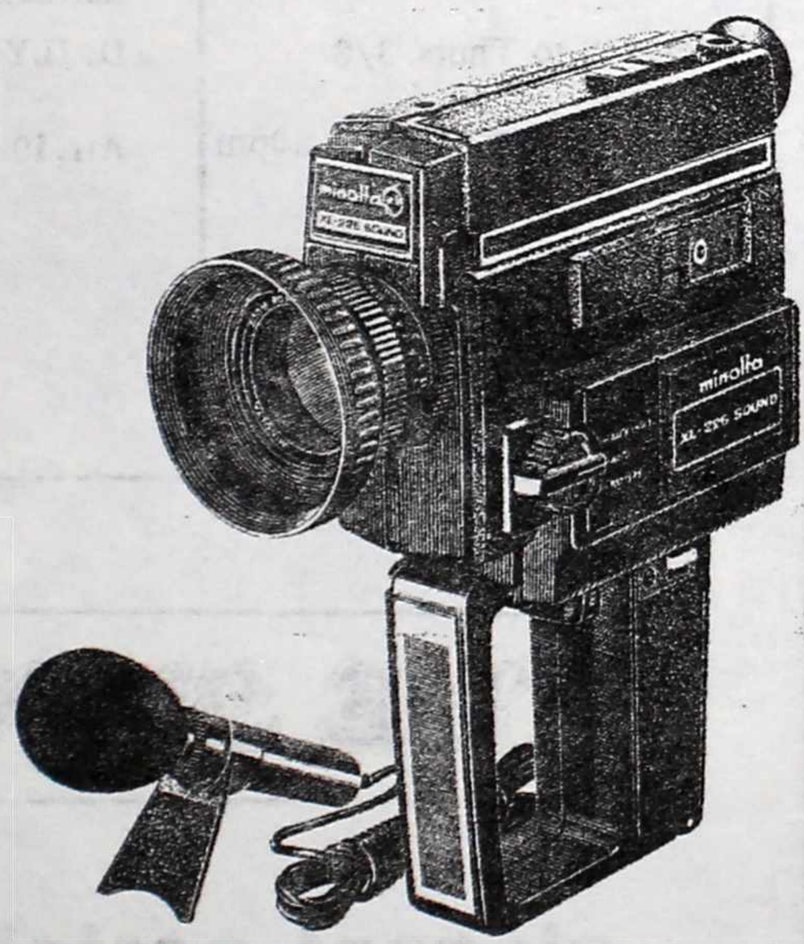
ONE OF THE FIRST SHOPS ON YOUR RIGHT APPROACHING BURNT PINE FROM THE SOUTHEAST

Minolta presents "The New Time Movies."

XL-660 SOUND



XL-440 SOUND



XL-225 SOUND

Compact and light-weight XL-Sound cameras easy to handle even in low light conditions.

Highly responsive TTA and servomotor-driven EE system to provide correct exposure at all times.

Information-center viewfinder lets you concentrate on filming.

CAMERALINES

THE ISLAND'S ONLY COMPLETE PHOTOGRAPHIC STORE

S.A. AU CAPITAL DE 37,890,000 C.F.P.

THE FOLLOWING SHIPPING SERVICES
ARE NOW BEING OPERATED BY C.C.C.
FROM SYDNEY AND AUCKLAND

FROM SYDNEY

THE RECOMMISSIONING OF THE VESSEL N.V. ILE DE LUMIERE HAS BEEN DELAYED UNTIL SOME TIME LATER THIS MONTH. THE M.V. AIDAN WILL SUBSTITUTE FOR THE EARLY MARCH SAILING IN C.C.C.'S FOUR WEEKLY SERVICE FROM SYDNEY-LORD HOWE - NORFOLK ISLAND - PORT VILLA -SANTO-SYDNEY

C.C.C. AGENTS IN SYDNEY HETHERINGTON KINGSBURY PTY. LTD.
37 PITT STREET TELEPHONE 27.1671

FROM NEW ZEALAND

C.C.C. OPERATES A FOUR-WEEKLY SERVICE FROM AUCKLAND AND TAURONGA WITH THE M.V. CAPITAINE COOK.

C.C.C. AGENTS IN AUCKLAND SOFRANE UNILINES
42 CUSTOMS STREET TELEPHONE 73279

C.C.C. AGENTS IN NORFOLK ISLAND

South Pacific Shipping Company (N.I.) Limited

TELEPHONE 2131 (KEN) 2018 (GEOFF)

BEST BUYS

YOU'LL FIND YOUR OWN "Best Buys" depending on your own needs and purse, but The News asked some of the Island's leading importers to pick a few items they believe are particularly good value at the moment. Here's what they told us:

Proud's: "Omega watches".
Cameralines: "The Olympus OM-2 SLR camera, at our low price, is an outstanding example of value."
Miltons: "Vivitar Point-n-shoot pocket cameras with built-in flash, from $36.95; and the Topcon IC-1 electronic automatic SLR camera, with a full range of interchangeable lenses also available, for $145."
The Norfolk Trader: "The Braun Synchron-plus electric shaver for only $31.50 - almost 40% less than recommended Aust. list price."
The Trading Post: "We have same-day mainland newspapers five evenings a week, planes permitting."
International Duty-Free: "Olympic fishing tackle, and inflatable boats, pools and wigwams from Italy."
Casa Kui: "Our jewellery and other beautiful arts from China, because of our long-standing direct connections there."
Martin's Agencies: "Remington electric shavers and hot combs, on sale at good shops in Burnt Pine"
Kamak Trading: "Casio, the big calculator company, have just introduced Casiotron electronic watches. They are on sale at Pacific Hire Cars, from just $75."

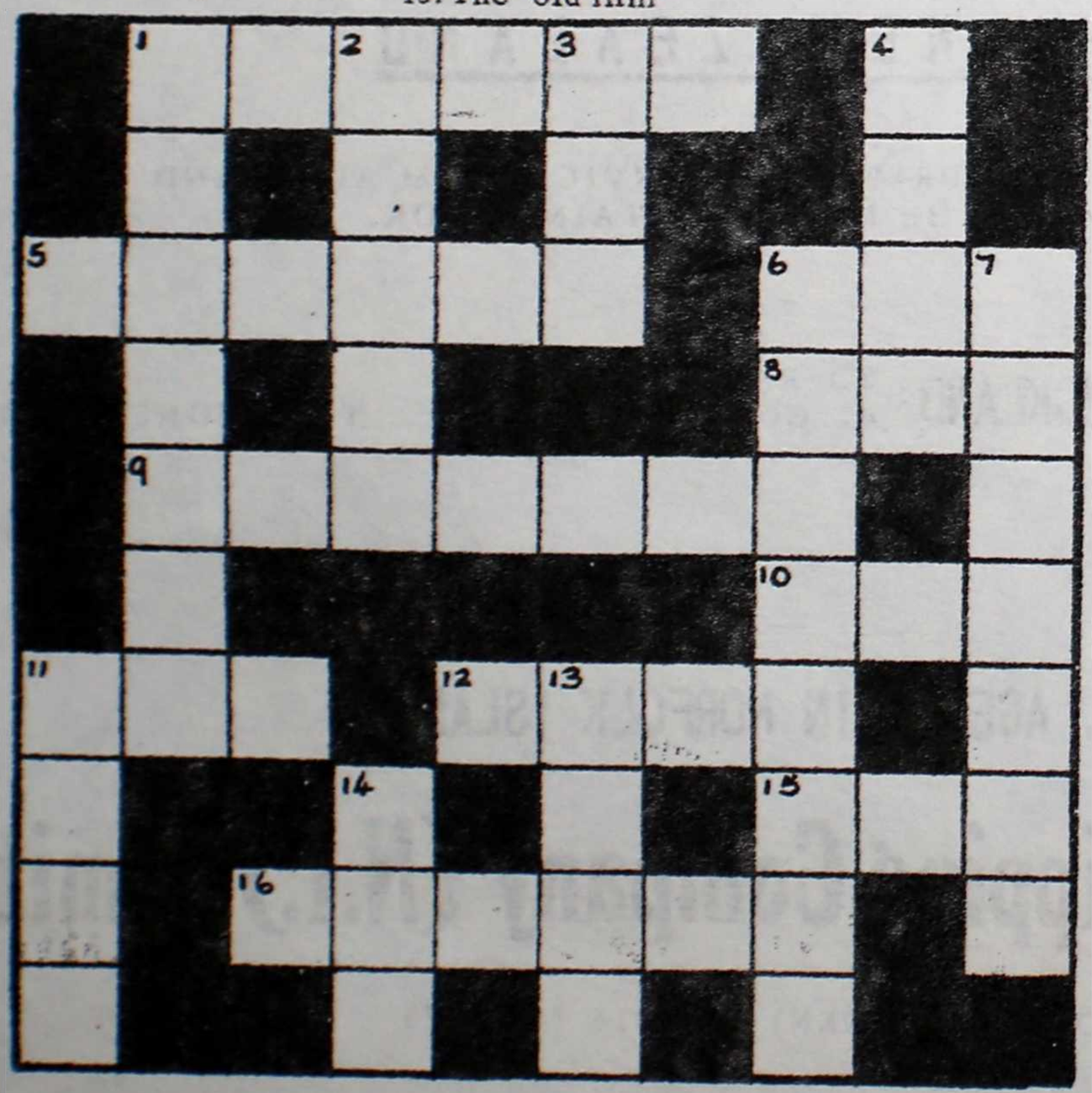
CASIO...REMINGTON
CASA KUI...INTERNATIONAL DUTY-FREE..
THE TRADING POST..
NORFOLK TRADER...
MILTONS...CAMERALINES...PROUD'S...

NORFOLK WORDS

"GOODBYE QANTAS, HELLO EAST-WEST"

ACROSS
1. Aircraft manufacture
5. Engine rod
6. Close
8. In the past
9. Stewardess
10. Baggage label
11. Request
12. The workers
15. Estimated time of arrival
16. The 'old firm'

DOWN
1. Journeys
2. These also fly
3. Age
4. Common to birds and planes
6. The 'new firm'
7. Aircraft corporation
11. Pertaining to flight
13. Speed
14. Liquid refreshment facility



PITCAIRN AND NORFOLK stamps, 1st day covers

Back issues - variety of sets
DeCHESNE'S STORE - Hospital Corner

Note - DeChesne's is also stockist of back issues of the Norfolk Island News

PLEASE

THERE AREN'T MANY signs saying "Don't..." on Norfolk Island.

And there are even fewer policemen.

But it will make you even more welcome if you bear in mind a few points:

- When the weather has been dry for a long time, please drive s-l-o-w-l-y down dirt roads. Even at 20 mph you can throw up a thick trail of dust. That may not worry you, but what it does to clean washing, hanging on a line behind a hedge, is heartbreaking to a housewife.
- If you are a spearfisherman, find a boat to take you out past the reef. Spearguns aren't allowed inside the reef.
- When the weather is wet, please believe signs saying "Road Impassable When Wet". If you drive ahead, you'll rip up the road surface for the future, and may well have a long, muddy walk to get someone to tow you out.

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● THE ARTICLES REPRINTED ON THE TWO SIDES OF THIS SHEET APPEARED IN THE CANBERRA TIMES ON FEBRUARY 15 AND 16, 1977. THE EDITOR OF THE NEWS BELIEVES THEY ARE THE MOST ACCURATE, INTELLIGENT AND COMPREHENSIVE ARTICLES ABOUT NORFOLK ISLAND THAT HAVE APPEARED IN AN AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER, EVER. WE GRATEFULLY THANK THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES FOR DEVOTING SO MUCH SPACE TO NORFOLK ISLAND'S SITUATION AT THIS IMPORTANT TIME IN OUR HISTORY, AND EXPRESS OUR ADMIRATION FOR THEIR CORRESPONDENT, WHO WAS ABLE TO CAPTURE SO MUCH OF THE ISLAND IN A SHORT TIME — DESPITE BEING DOWNED BY "HONDA-ITIS".

expensive dams. The discharge of waste into the ground is still not quite severe enough to cause contamination of underground water beneath the island's porous soil.

Similarly, the tourist attractiveness of Norfolk derives largely from its rural, unspoilt appearance. Ownership of land or even a business confers no right of settlement on the island and the administration exercises strict control over immigration. At present the quota is nil.

Controls

Everything depends on being able to keep the population within limits. Islanders greatly fear an influx of developers or of private individuals wanting to build homes, ruining the natural attractions and overloading the rudimentary services.

But can the immigration controls be maintained if Norfolk is absorbed totally into Australia? Locals doubt that they could. "Suppose", says Mr Snell, "an Australian wanted to settle here and demanded in the High Court his right to live anywhere in Australia that he wished. Who do you think would win?"

The attitude of Norfolk Islanders may seem selfish and insular to the mainlander, but in fact they are the friendliest and most hospitable people. Visitors are welcomed not only for their contribution to the island's one industry but for themselves, and locals are genuinely anxious that their guests should see and enjoy all that the island has to offer.

But that very anxiety includes the awareness that they must

economics and bluntly states, "If the Commonwealth withdrew its financial and physical assistance from the island, the island's economy would collapse overnight".

The concept that Australia is footing the bill and therefore has the right to do what it likes permeates the whole report. But is Australia really contributing so much? And does it get nothing in return?

Mr Justice Nimmo's justification for his doomsaying reads weakly. He instances only three things: the subsidy to Qantas on an unprofitable run; the maintenance of airport facilities by the Department of Transport; and the restoration of the historic ruins that provide one of Norfolk's major tourist attractions.

Relics

The Qantas deficit, say locals, comes from the continued use of obsolete DC4s on the run. East-West Airlines is to take over in March with Fokker Friendships and is said to claim that this run will represent 15 per cent of its turnover and will be regarded as its "blue-ribbon" line.

As for the historic ruins and buildings, these are relics of the convict era. "Those historical buildings", says Mr Bill Blucher, the president of committees of the Norfolk Island Council, "are just as important to Australia's history as they are to Norfolk's", and he points out that the work done under the National Estate program is indeed national, not local. Tasmania is not expected, he says, to look after Port Arthur on its own.

In fact the only accountable figure is the $126,000 allotted to the Administration, but even this sum seems to be a book-entry covering official salaries and expenses rather than money actually transmitted to the island for use there.

Expertise

On the reverse side, locals point out that there are operating in the island several Australian-based companies that must pay Australian company tax. There are residents who derive their income from Australian assets and pay tax on those; and there are people who earn money here and return to Australia in too short a time to avoid taxation on their earnings. No figure can be put on all this, but it is clear that the money does not all flow one way.

Nevertheless, the islanders acknowledge — and graciously — their debt to Australia and no one wants to be completely independent. Although the island's own revenue pays for education, health, law and many other aspects of Norfolk life, the staff and expertise come from Australia and locals recognise that they could not do without it.

The one thing Australia gained from Norfolk Island in the past which the islanders would gladly have done without was the use of the island as a tax haven. This loophole was closed in 1972. The locals were glad to see it go, and bitterly resent the implication by politicians and some of the media that they want it back — or even that it still exists.

The aim that most people here seem to have in mind is a system self-sufficiency as possible with only as much help from the mainland as is unavoidable.

"Is that unreasonable?" asked one local resident, "If I was Prime Minister I'd be proud of an island that could stand on its own feet instead of being a burden on the rest of the country". Islanders believe that Norfolk would become a burden under the Nimmo proposals with more money coming in than going out.

Nobody, least of all the council, denies that Norfolk has its problems. But they believe that these can be solved if the advisory council is given executive powers, especially to raise local finance.

Mr Justice Nimmo, in a passage reminiscent of the British Raj (or of various Ministers for the Capital Territory) solemnly intones, "Members of the Norfolk Island Council have not been trained to meet the demands of progressive self-government, having in the past acted only in an advisory capacity. It is wise in these circumstances that people assuming power for the first time learn to walk before they attempt to run".

Veto

A councillor commented that Mr Justice Nimmo failed to recognise that for years the islanders in general, and the council in particular, had been running Norfolk as a large commercial enterprise, "like one big supermarket", and that if they were as incompetent as the report suggests, they would all have been broke long since.

The councillors admit they

Australia can justifiably step in and take us over completely".

Whether that is what most of the islanders want is unclear and is likely to remain so in the absence of a referendum, although it would be a safe bet that the vast majority regard as ludicrous the suggestion that they should become voters of the Canberra electorate — a proposal that would surely run up for Mr John Haslem the highest travelling expenses in history.

The facts

The visitors are much more certain. They reckon that Norfolk is just fine as it is, even though the duty-free shopping is not such as good a bargain as they had thought (income tax would raise prices there, too).

Mr Ian Kenny, a New Zealander now resident on the island who runs one of the bus tours, makes sure that his customers get all the facts about his beloved island, and their response is invariably the same. Many of them take home bumper-stickers with the simple message "Lub-be Norfolk" — "Let Norfolk be".

Whether the politicians, lawyers and bureaucrats can ever be persuaded to let Norfolk be is a question for the future. At any rate, by their appeal to the United Nations for the simple right to a referendum, the council has at least succeeded in bringing their problems to the attention of the wider Australian community, if not of the world. They have achieved their first objective.

elected council, are taking the issues that led to the United Nations letter.

Election

The immediate cause of the action was the failure of the Department of Administrative Services to get a message urgently to the Minister, Senator Withers. The council wants a referendum which only the Minister can authorise. An urgent telegram had asked that the Minister should grant a referendum or give a sound reason for refusing one and wanted a reply in time for the council's meeting last Wednesday.

But Senator Withers, it seems, was in his home State of Western Australia helping Sir Charles Court's election campaign. Since previous requests for a referendum had either been refused or fobbed off, the council's patience was exhausted — and the letter was sent to the UN.

The demand for a referendum stems from the proposals of the Royal Commission on Norfolk Island conducted by Mr Justice Nimmo last year. Most of the islanders agree with much of the Nimmo Report, but there are four points which, if implemented, would fundamentally change the character and way of life of the island. It is on these points that the council wants a referendum to find out what their fellow-islanders want.

Taxes

The first point is that the island should receive all the social and welfare benefits that the Australian Government extends to its mainland citizens.

The second is that islanders should pay for these privileges by being subject to all Australian exempt it.

On the face of it, a demand for a referendum of islanders on such fundamental issues does not seem unreasonable and many locals are genuinely puzzled by the Government's reluctance to authorise one. Perhaps the answer lies in the remark made by the Prime Minister, in an interview on radio, that the islanders do not seem to know what they want.

Divided

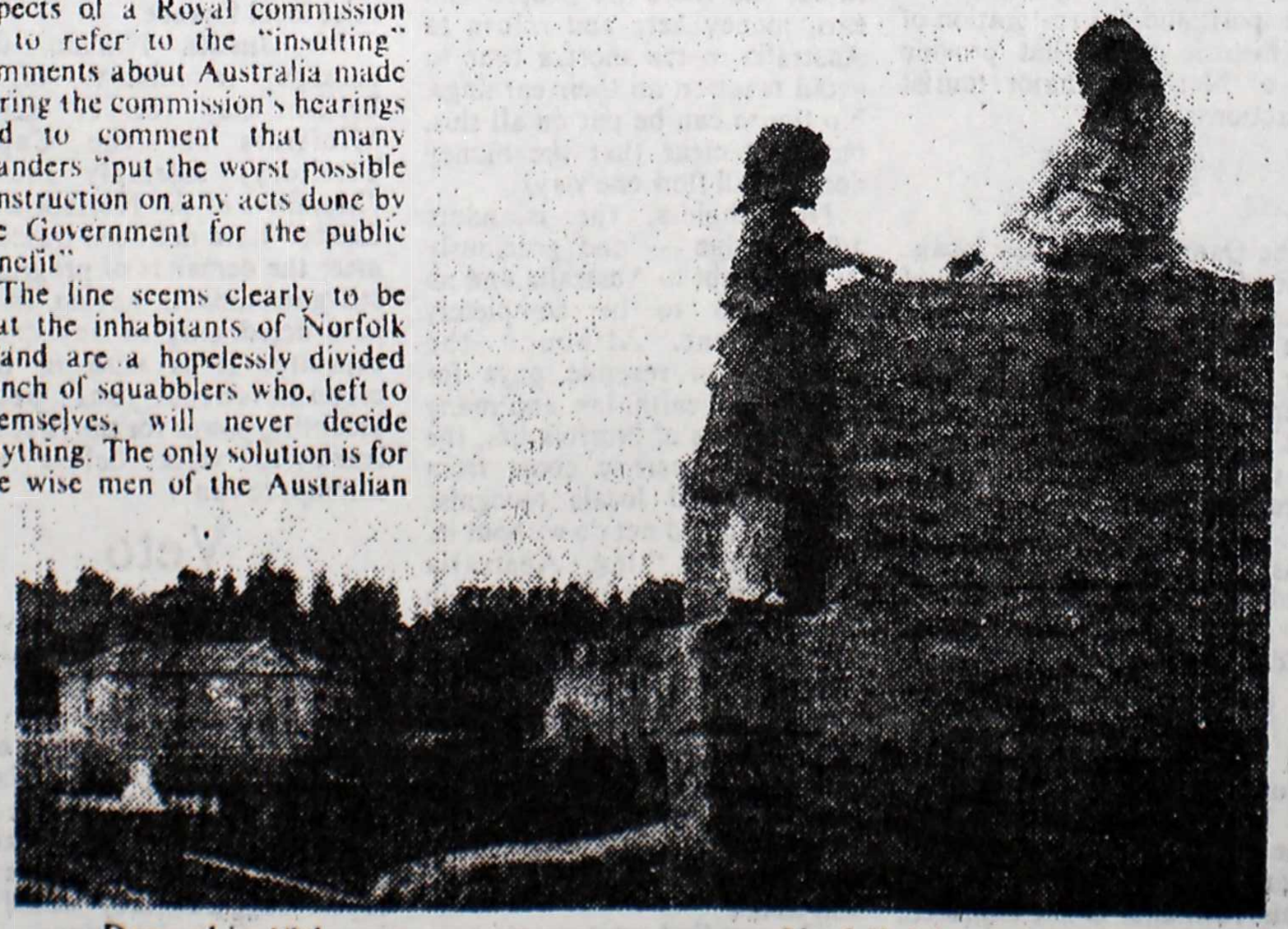
The Nimmo Report itself is remarkable in its tone of hurt dignity. It so far departs from the calm, judicial language one expects of a Royal commission as to refer to the "insulting" comments about Australia made during the commission's hearings and to comment that many islanders "put the worst possible construction on any acts done by the Government for the public benefit".

The line seems clearly to be that the inhabitants of Norfolk Island are a hopelessly divided bunch of squabblers who, left to themselves, will never decide anything. The only solution is for the wise men of the Australian idea of some peculiarly disputatious quality in the islanders was pooh-pooed by Mr Lyal Snell, a councillor and a descendant of the Bounty mutineers.

He pointed out that the residents compose a small community of some 1,600 people, isolated by hundreds of miles of ocean from the rest of the world. Any such community is likely to have its fair share of feuds and disputes, particularly when its composition is so mixed. The population consists of descendants of the Bounty mutineers, who were transferred here from Pitcairn Island in intelligent and articulate leaders (and its most astute and successful businessmen) come from this group.

In their eyes, they were given Norfolk Island by Queen Victoria, and when the British Government handed it over to Australia in 1914 it was for the protection, not the exploitation, of their traditional way of life.

Whatever the legal and constitutional rights and wrongs of this point of view, there is no doubt that it is strongly held in the island. This is one point of unity that should not have surprised the Royal Commission, nor should it have been



Dressed in 19th-century costumes, two young Norfolk Island girls play on convict-built prison walls while awaiting the beginning of Bounty Day, when Norfolk Islanders re-enact the landing of their ancestors from Pitcairn Island — many of them descendants of the Bounty mutineers. In the background is what remains of "Quality Row", now the administration buildings.

New Zealand, or who have heard all about them from tourists, are strongly in favour of having them for themselves. If the price to be paid is taxation, so be it. As one islander said, "Why should we be left out? Taxation is no skin off our nose: it just means the employers will have to pay higher wages to make up the difference".

Naturally, the employers do not share this view. It would be easy to dismiss the opposition to the Nimmo proposals as a reluctance to pay tax, and the islanders happily admit that this is part of it. But the problem goes deeper than this.

Prices

The island's sole economic strength is tourism. In one way and another everyone depends on it. But, as Mr Steve McMullen, the manager of one of the leading hotels points out, Norfolk Island has to compete with such counter-attractions as Bali, Hong Kong, Fiji, Tonga and Samoa — and Norfolk is much smaller and more vulnerable.

To compete, says Mr McMullen, Norfolk has to be promoted as "the overseas holiday where you don't leave Australia" — and its prices have to be kept as low as possible. Since the import of goods by air or by sea (carried on small boats from the freighter over the bar to the pier at Kingston) is very expensive, the only way to keep prices down is to keep labour costs down.

At present this is possible. Young men and women come from Australia and New Zealand for what they regard as a working holiday on Norfolk Island. They get low, but not ludicrously low wages, free accommodation and board, and if they stay long enough they can take their earnings home

public-works levy", says Mr Snell, "imagine what they'd say if they were slugged for $15 a week".

The public-works levy, a sort of computation for contributory labour, is one of a series of local taxes and imposts that yield the island's administration some $1.5 million a year. Mr Bill Blucher, the president of committees of the Norfolk Island Council and a Pitcairner with impeccable credentials (his grandfather was a Quintal and his grandmother a descendant of Fletcher Christian) believes that the problems of the lack of social welfare can be overcome if this local income can be increased.

He points out that even now the lack of formal welfare is made up for, to a large extent, by the islanders' tradition of self-help. Whip-rounds for people in trouble are common, while the churches and organisations such as Lions, Rotary, the CWA and the Sunshine Club are all active in seeing that real distress is alleviated. "We look after our own" is a motto with real meaning on Norfolk.

The council, however, would like to see the people given more security by right rather than by favour. Mr Snell reckons that a local income tax on the Australian model would cost more to administer than it would raise, but sees real possibilities in small indirect taxes or an increase in those that already exist.

The problem is that the council has no power to raise taxes itself. In fact it has no formal power at all. Canberrans will sympathise with the problems of an elected council that can do no more than advise the Administrator — although, unlike Canberra, Mr Blucher claims that the council's advice has rarely been rejected.

To be concluded tomorrow.

CT COUNCIL TRANSCRIPT continued

his best but was able to get through only to a secretary in Sen. Withers' Perth office. The Council cable had never reached him. She undertook to relay the message, which the Administrator dictated.

A reply finally came at 4pm, and the Administrator adjourned the Council meeting briefly to go to his office to take the call. It was from Canberra, not Perth.

Three-and-a-half minutes later the Administrator was back up in the Council Chamber, talking with a ring of the Councillors over at one side of the Chamber. He seemed tense and concerned. Cr. Blucher questioned him twice. Then the meeting resumed.

After reviewing the cables and some of the events told above, the Administrator announced what he had just been told by the Department:

"Gentlemen, I withdrew from the Council Chambers a few minutes ago to take a telephone call from the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Administrative Services who said that my message had been conveyed to the Minister in some town in West Australia, and that he had telephoned the Deputy Secretary, Mr. Palmer.

"The Minister asked Mr. Palmer to ring me and to pass on to Council that he now had the cable. He considered it was a complicated issue and he felt he couldn't give an answer today.

"He thought it might possibly not be only a matter for his own determination, but that he would look at it and that he would send you an answer very shortly."

Cr. Blucher: "I think it only fair at this stage to endeavour to explain to the people who are listening the lead-up and the reasons behind the call for a referendum.

"It will be recalled that on November 25th meeting of Council a resolution was passed by Council to call for a referendum.

"The question of a referendum was rejected, or attempts were made to block such a referendum.

"However, the question of a referendum has always remained uppermost in the minds of Councillors as a fundamental and democratic form of confirming Council and electors' views on the Report and its recommendations.

"Council has had further time to reflect more deeply on the necessity or otherwise of the need for such a referendum and with that in mind, together with electors' opinions expressed in the last few weeks, Council's conclusions are now confirmed.

"Council has also given much thought to the telephone reply to Council's resolution of 12th January inviting the Minister to visit Norfolk Island for across-the-table discussions on the Report's recommendations.

"Therefore, with all those factors weighing heavily together, with proposed major changes so important to this Island's welfare, Council is of the very strong opinion that the people of this Island are the only ones to decide what their future should be.

"Council, at its closed session meeting last Wednesday, adopted by resolution the motion that the Chairman has just read out.

"At the close of the resolution in which Council once again asked the Minister if he would call a referendum, there was mention of the United Nations.

"Council's many discussions in recent weeks have, for obvious reasons, been in closed session and we have not been able to keep the residents of this Island up-to-date on our deliberations.

"I wish to take a few minutes of this opportunity in a meeting being broadcast to the people and assure everyone about what Councillors have been thinking with respect to the United Nations.

"Very early in discussions on the Report by Sir John Nimmo, and from late November, it was obvious to most Councillors the changes recommended by Sir John Nimmo would have such wide effects on Norfolk Island's future, the only way Council could be certain of what people really wanted was to hold a referendum.

"We asked for a referendum and were refused.

"We were also informed that a referendum called by the electors was not possible under the Ordinance.

"Lastly, we called again for a referendum to be approved by the Minister on a question we believe puts the main Nimmo recommendations in a fair and balanced way.

"Unfortunately that cable we sent last week did not find its way to the Minister. For what reason, I would not wish to imagine at this point.

"The question on the Island today is how should the Island's form of government be improved.

"Clearly, we cannot remain as we have been in the past, although some might like this best of all.

"We have to develop in some direction.

"United Nations have given a lot of thought to ways in which a non-self-governing territory should develop so far as his government is concerned.

"There are three ways in which we can develop. It is interesting to note that these three directions are very similar to the three choices proposed by Cedric Hampson Q.C. in his long summing up address to the Royal Commission.

"He suggested that if any doubt what residents actually wanted was evident, those wishes be determined by a referendum.

"The three directions we could develop in are:-

- Firstly, complete integration into Australia's system, political and otherwise.
- Secondly, toward having our own territorial self-government, with continued close association with Australia.
- Thirdly, toward complete independence.

"I think we could dispense with that third choice and delete it completely from our thinking.

"According to the United Nations principles, a non-self-governing territory should develop in one of those three directions.

"The choice of such direction should be made entirely by the people living in that territory. The choice should not be imposed on them by their parent country.

"It is reassuring to know that Australia has supported those principles and that they apply, I understand, in the Cocos Islands which is also a territory of Australia.

"However, Australia has said that these principles do not apply to Norfolk Island.

"This Council has asked why the same principles do not apply here and have never been able to get a clear answer.

"We have recently been able to find out what Australia's reasons are for saying those principles do not apply.

"They are found in a published report of the Senate's Standing Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs issued over a year ago entitled 'United Nations Involvement with Australia's Territories'.

"There are nine factors mentioned in the Report and says:

'These factors militate against even the possibility of United Nations involvement in Norfolk Island.'

"It came as a shock to me to learn that only two of those factors are quite correct -- the remaining seven are either misleading or mistaken, and I'm sure it would be quite a surprise to the Australian Government to learn of those.

"Sir, I am certain I can and Council can substantiate these findings at the appropriate time.

"Perhaps at our next meeting a paper can be prepared on those nine factors which, when corrected, shows quite clearly that we may call on the United Nations on the principle supported by the Australian Government for non-self-governing territories such as Norfolk Island, in that they could or should apply.

"I want to be very clear in assuring the people of this Island that the members of this Council are interested in only one thing and that is making sure that the residents of Norfolk Island have the right to vote in a referendum before any major change is made in the government of this island.

"That is all that is involved with the United Nations request.

"Hopefully, Australia will agree that this is not an unreasonable request and will take the necessary steps to see that the Island residents get the same benefit of at least the same principles that Australia supports and applies to its other territories.

"The members of Council have simply written to the appropriate Committee of the United Nations which is considering questions like ours all the time.

"It is a normal routine with no suggestion of provocation whatever by this Council.

"That, sir, I believe explains the reasons behind and the reasons leading up on a number of occasions by the Council to really determine what the people of this Island want to do with their future.

"I take the opportunity of just saying briefly, sir, that I am extremely disappointed in the Department of Administrative Services for not advising the Minister on receipt of the cable that Council sent to them almost a week ago.

"I would like to move that Council adjourn at this point to deliberate on the reply by telephone which you have just received from the Minister."

Chairman: "Cr. Blucher, would you just clarify at the close of your remarks -- I think you indicated that Council had already approached the United Nations. Is that what you said?"

Cr. Blucher: "That's right. I'll read what I did say - 'that members of Council have simply written to the appropriate committee of the United Nations which is considering questions like ours all the time.'"

Chairman: "A letter has been sent?"

Cr. Blucher: "A letter has been written."

Chairman: "Written, but not sent?"

Cr. Blucher: "No."

Chairman: "I see. Shall we adjourn for five or six minutes. Adjournment, gentlemen."

THE ADJOURNMENT lasted about 20 minutes. The Administrator offered the elected Councillors the use of his office. Realising that the Councillors had written the U.N. letter as individuals, he left them to consider, as a group of individuals, their reaction to Canberra's reply. He remained in the Council Chamber most of the time the elected members were out. The meeting resumed at 4.20, Cr. Blucher taking the lead:

Cr. Blucher: "In view of replies by telephone today from the Minister to the Department for transfer to Council, Council is of the opinion that a reply to our cable of 2nd February would and should have been acknowledged at least by this point.

"I've tabled a letter referred to in my previous statements. It is addressed to The Chairman of the Committee of Twenty-Four on Decolonisation at the United Nations, with copies to the Secretary-General, and the Minister.

"I move that these be tabled and the letter be forwarded.

"Sir, I move that the letter be tabled and accepted by Council."

Chairman: "What are you tabling - the letter you've given to me?"

Cr. Blucher: "Yes, Mr. Chairman."

Chairman: "Seconded by... Cr. McIntyre, was it?... Cr. Smith. Any discussion?"

Cr. Blucher: "I have no discussion on the matter, Mr. Chairman.

"I'd just like to express once more to the people of this Island that this Council has but one thing in mind and that is to have the voice of the people expressed in the form of a referendum, which has been refused us at this point.

"This leaves Council with no alternative but to adhere to the proposal that we mentioned to the Minister nearly one week ago, sir.

"I don't wish to discuss the matter any further."

Chairman: "As to these two papers, I will certainly not forward this paper to this party. I understand this is what you're asking me to do?"

Cr. Blucher: "No sir."

Chairman: "You've done it yourselves --"

Cr. Blucher: "It is my duty to forward this."

Chairman: "I see. You're doing that yourself."

Cr. Blucher: "I'm tabling you a copy and a copy for the Minister."

Chairman: "So you've got another copy that you'll post off yourself."

Cr. Blucher: "That's right."

Chairman: "Well, I'll convey one copy to the Minister and I'll read this longish document - which obviously has been under preparation for quite some time - away from this Council.

"I add that I regret very much that you've seen fit to take this step.

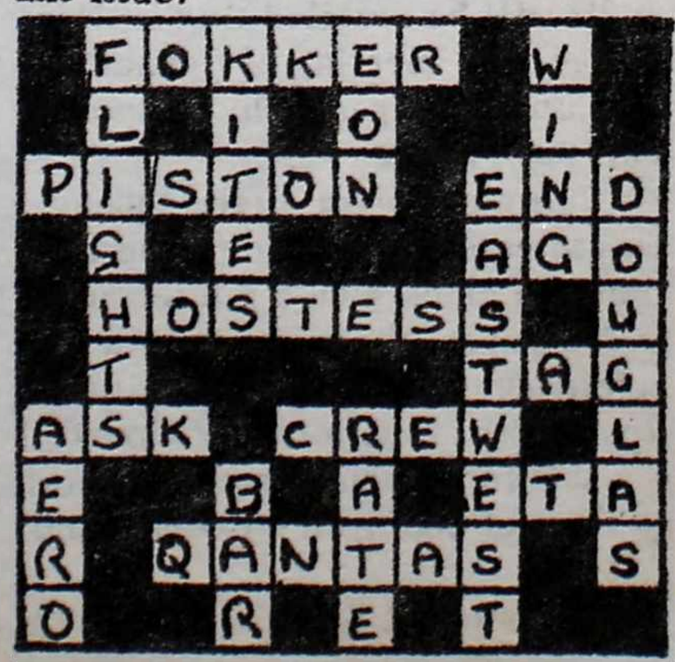
"...Is there any further discussion? ...Those in favour -- all elected Councillors in favour -- Chairman abstains. The motion is carried."

* * * * * *

CR. BLUCHER carried the original letter addressed to Ambassador Salim Salim of Tanzania, and a letter to the Secretary-General of the U.N., home with him that night. The next morning, when the Post Office opened he was there. He registered the letters, made sure they had enough stamps to go airmail and special delivery, and put them into the post.

"NORFOLK LIVING" popular features had to be left out this issue because of space devoted to Special Supplement.

ANSWER TO "NORFOLK CROSSWORD" appearing in "Island Handbook" in this issue.



Letter from Home

As I wrote to you last month it was raining; it hadn't rained again since that day until yesterday when it started during the night and then rained all day. What a glorious sound on the roof, knowing that at last the tank was beginning to fill up again. It hasn't been so dry for such a long period, since we've been living on the Island anyway. Many, many families have had to buy water on a regular basis, the poor cattle are extremely thin as the hills are just brown and bare of feed. But it doesn't take long for the grass to turn green. This morning everywhere is bright and sparkling - our driveway is even muddy! It isn't until one has to rely on rainwater for all household uses that one learns to really appreciate the rain.

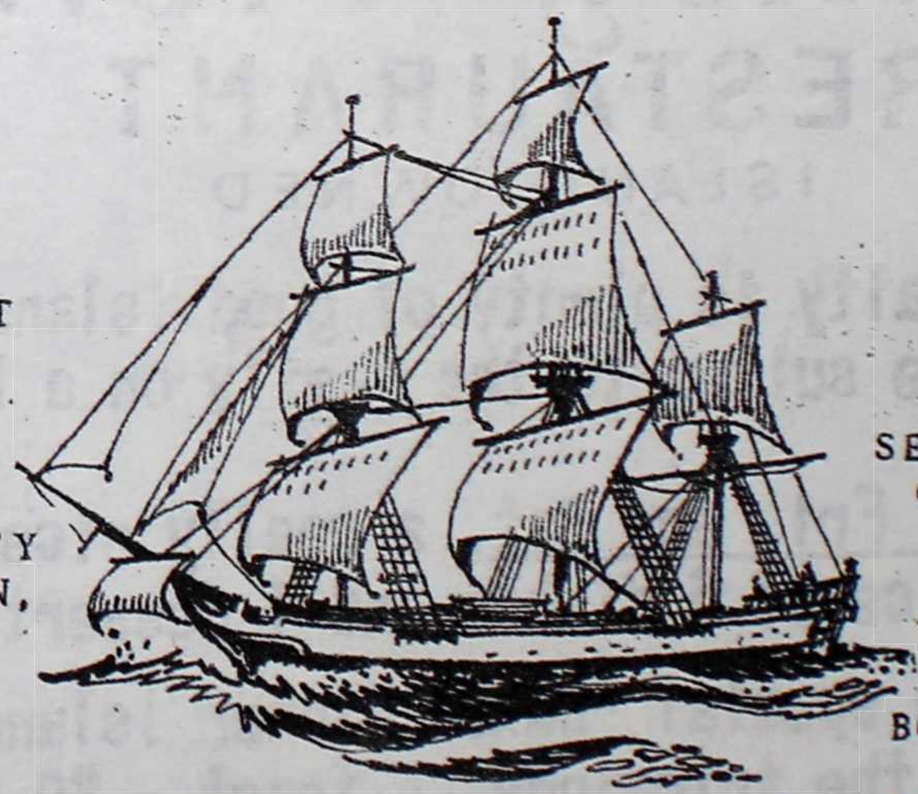
A sport which I believe has become very popular world-wide is proving most popular here on Norfolk too. At about 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoons a large crowd of both men and women, very young, young and young at heart gather to enjoy a game of softball. There are two ladies' teams, with almost enough for a third team, and two men's teams. The first half-hour or so is spent with mixed teams of both the men and women. Then they split and the women play their competition game whilst the men have their game. There's a great deal of hilarity especially coming from the men's direction. Actually it's sometimes difficult when fielding to concentrate on one's own game without trying to watch the men as well. Brian Everett certainly looks as though he's played before. His pitching is terrific and very fast too. Other faces among the men I've recognized include Michael Prentice, Rod Buffett Nicky Quintal, Neville Parker, Terry Matthews and David Sanders. The women are very keen too and are becoming more so, I think, as they learn the rules. Last Sunday the two women's teams played two teams from the visiting Charity Queens, girls who came from all different parts of New South Wales and who were all enjoying their stay here on the Island. The highlight of the afternoon came after the women's games were over when Shane Quintal took Zena Heins for a "burn" on his motor bike bumping over the common and straight up a steep hill. I was quite pleased to be safely on the ground and not Zena on that bike. She looked as though she was thoroughly enjoying it but I bet she was grimly holding on to Shane! A most enjoyable afternoon spent in ideal surroundings down on the common in Watermill Valley.

Mr. Eric Williams, the new Norfolk Island dentist, gave a most interesting talk at the recent P & C Association meeting at the school. Mr. Williams hopes to set up a once-a-term "Brush-In" at the school to help the fight against tooth decay. The "Brush-In" should only take a short time, and each child will be shown how to clean his teeth (correctly) and to treat his teeth with stannous fluoride. The children here are fortunate in having a dentist so interested in protecting their teeth against decay. (Already the children receive fluoride tablets and dental facilities free of charge.) We wish Mr. Williams success in his project. Gosh, he could do himself out of a job!

It's a real pity that more parents don't make the effort to attend the

"Eat Thy Bread With Joy and Drink Thy Wine with Merry Hearts"

SOFT LIGHTS AND PLEASANT MUSIC ARE PART OF THE ENJOYABLE ATMOSPHERE OF THE BOUNTY LODGE TAVERN, NORFOLK'S LEADING LICENSED RESTAURANT. ENJOY CHOOSING FROM OUR FINE



A LA CARTE MENU -- AND ENJOY OUR ATTENTIVE SERVICE AT THE COCKTAIL BAR AND AT YOUR TABLE. YOUR EVENING "ABOARD THE BOUNTY" WITH US WILL BE COMPLETE AND MEMORABLE.

BOUNTY LODGE TAVERN

OPEN TUESDAY THROUGH SATURDAY FROM 7PM. TELEPHONE 2019

P & C meetings. It's one way of knowing exactly what goes on in the school. There are decisions to be made at the meetings, and explanations given, of newest teaching aids and methods. If you are the parent of a child attending the N.I. Central School, how about coming along to the March meeting of the Association? Your child will be happy knowing that you take an interest in his school. And you will feel happy knowing what's going on, too.

This month sees the completion of the Qantas air service to Norfolk Island and I've a feeling there are lots of people here who will be very sad. No longer shall we hear the familiar drone of the reliable old DC4 aircraft around the Island's skies. Qantas began their service between Sydney and Norfolk on October 14, 1947 with the Lancastrian aircraft. The DC4 service commenced in June 1949. So, after 27 years of service, it's little wonder we are so sentimental. Already one of the new Fokker F27-500 aircraft of the East-West airline has been in on a 'proving' flight, and practised landing and take-offs. They look very streamlined, and from all reports the interior of the F27-500 is very nice. As I'm writing this I can see the plane in the air as it takes Island residents on a courtesy trip around the Island. I believe there were 8 lucky schoolchildren who were taken for a flight this afternoon. Who knows -- maybe 27 years hence we shall feel all sentimental about them!

In recent years the local branch of the Lions Club has held a MONSTER raffle to raise funds toward their special project. For the past few years they have raffled a car - a very popular prize - and tickets have sold really quickly. But this year the raffle is for a trip for two - for 18 glorious days - seeing Auckland, Tahiti, San Franciso, Disneyland, Los Angeles, Honolulu, and back to Auckland and Norfolk Island PLUS $500 spending money. Wouldn't it be fabulous to see all those places? But if the winner did not want to make the trip, he could take $2,500 in cash. This year's raffle is to raise funds towards the 6th Grade School Tour and towards the purchase of blood testing equipment for the hospital. You will have to wait till April 23 to know who the lucky winner is. The winning number will be drawn on the 23rd at Rawson Hall.

Another fund-raising activity to which we can look forward next month is the "Marlboro Classic Mile" which is being organised by the Rotary Club and will take place on Saturday, 12th March. Funds raised will go towards the Wives & Mothers' Club's new Playcentre and Clubrooms. The Club is hoping that the new Playcentre will be finished and ready for occupation at the beginning of second term. It will be built on a section of land in Middlegate Road opposite Duncombe Bay Garage. The "Marlboro Classic Mile" is a wheelbarrow race. A Calcutta Sweep will be held prior to the race in the afternoon. The race is to commence at Channer's Corner (I think). The "pushers" pick up their passengers at the ABC Hobby Shop and then race on to Rawson Hall. A monster barbecue will be held in the grounds of Rawson Hall at the conclusion of the race. Should be a most enjoyable afternoon.

Cheerio! ---

David

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